

Peer Review

Review of: "Prevalence and Patterns of Tobacco and Nicotine Product Use in Italy: Findings from 2018–2024 Repeated Cross-Sectional Surveys"

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This comprehensive study seeks to validate its internal findings against major external datasets to ensure a high level of ecological validity.

I would note that the study's findings align closely with official Italian National Institute of Health (ISS) data, which reported a 23.8% cigarette smoking prevalence and 4.0% HTP prevalence in 2024. Furthermore, the results are in alignment with the Eurobarometer survey (4% HTP prevalence).

I deem that the paper's primary value lies in its granular demographic data, such as the finding that HTP use is significantly more prevalent in younger cohorts (9.4% among 18-29-year-olds) compared to those 50+ (1.7%), even though cigarette smoking peaks later. This underscores the need for continued long-term surveillance as these younger cohorts age.

The study findings seem interesting in terms of reducing the risk of combustion (significantly higher exposure to toxicants from combusted products vs non-combusted alternatives), although it does not remain decisive in controlling nicotine addiction.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.