

Review of: "[Commentary] Snus Has Saved Many Lives in Sweden – And Can Save Many More"

Mohammed I.M. Gubari¹

¹ University of Sulaimania (Kurdistan Region)

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

1. While the study gives significant insights into the possible benefits of snus as a harm reduction tool, there are numerous limitations to consider:
2. The study uses hypothetical scenarios to determine the effect of snus on smoking-related mortality. These scenarios rely on assumptions about how people would behave in the absence of snus, which may not precisely represent real-world results.
3. Differences in population demographics, healthcare systems, and tobacco control regulations may make it difficult to compare Sweden to other European countries. Despite efforts to pick comparable countries, there may still be unaccounted-for variables that affect the outcomes.
4. Age-standardized death rates are important for comparing mortality rates among populations of varying ages. However, they may not reflect all nuances of tobacco-related mortality, especially if smoking habits vary by age group.
4. The study's primary emphasis is on smoking-related mortality among men in Sweden. While it briefly highlights potential benefits for women, it does not conduct a thorough investigation of gender-specific effects or take into account other potential health consequences of snus consumption.
5. The study uses data from the Global Burden of Disease study and demographic surveys. These data sources have their own limitations, such as potential reporting biases and differences in data collection methods.
6. The study's findings may not be applicable to populations or circumstances other than Sweden. Snus use trends, smoking practices, and tobacco control regulations can differ greatly among nations, limiting the study's conclusions' application outside of Sweden.
7. Although the article claims no specific funding or conflicting interests, the author's involvement with the Institute for Tobacco Studies raises concerns about potential biases in the interpretation of the data.

In conclusion: The study's findings on the impact of snus on lowering smoking-related mortality in Sweden are important, but should be regarded with caution due to limitations. More study, particularly longitudinal studies and detailed health outcomes evaluations, is required to better understand the long-term implications of snus use as a harm reduction strategy. However, I support the article's publication.

Dr. Mohammed I . M. Gubari