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Intergenerational transmission of nicotine within families: have e-cigarettes influenced passive smoking?*

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Highlights

- Use biomarkers to estimate Galtonian regressions of nicotine transmission from parents
- Evidence of transmission four times larger for mothers
- Evidence of a substantial reduction in nicotine transmission after the spread of e-cigs
- Transmission of cotinine from parents was reduced to 51% of the previous level
- Lower taxation of e-cigarettes may be justified on externality grounds

Abstract

Using an objective biomarker of active and passive smoking, we estimate Galtonian regressions of nicotine transmission and test whether the use of new nicotine delivery products (NDP) by parents had an influence on the transmission to children through passive smoking. We find evidence of a strong intergenerational transmission through passive smoking and that this is around four times larger for mothers compared to fathers. Moreover, we estimate an intention to treat difference-in-differences (DiD) model using parental cotinine as a continuous measure of exposure to the treatment and we find that the level of transmission of cotinine from parents was reduced to 51 per cent of the previous level just after the spread in the use of e-cigarettes in England and to 77 per cent

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