

Supplement B

Levels of Evidence Framework for Conclusions	
Strength of evidence	Definition
High	Evidence is based on studies of determinants that showed consistent associations between the variable and the behavioral outcome. The available evidence is based on a substantial number of studies, including longitudinal observational studies and, where relevant, experimental studies of sufficient size, duration, and quality showing consistent effects. Specifically, the grading criteria include evidence from more than one study type, and evidence from at least two independent cohort studies should be available, along with strong and plausible experimental evidence.
Moderate	Evidence is based on studies of determinants that showed fairly consistent associations between the variable and the behavioral outcome, but there are either shortcomings in the available evidence or some evidence to the contrary, which precludes a more definitive judgment. Shortcomings in the evidence may be any of the following: insufficient duration of studies, insufficient studies available (but evidence from at least 2 independent cohort studies or 5 case-control studies should be available), inadequate sample sizes, incomplete follow-up.
Limited, suggestive evidence	Evidence is based mainly on findings from cross-sectional studies. Insufficient longitudinal observational studies or experimental studies are available, or results are inconsistent. More well-designed studies of determinants are required to support the tentative associations.
Limited, no conclusive evidence	Evidence is based on findings of a few studies that are suggestive but insufficient to establish an association between the variable and the behavioral outcome. No evidence is available from longitudinal observational or experimental studies. More well-designed studies of determinants are required to support the tentative associations.
<i>National Academies of Sciences, E., Medicine., Public health consequences of e-cigarettes. 2018.</i>	