

# MSP Position Statement

**Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are the leading cause of death in Scotland, contributing to around 53,000 deaths in 2022 (85% of all deaths). They also have significant impact on people's lives, particularly in the most deprived communities, as well as on our economy and our NHS.**

Many of these deaths are preventable. Estimates by the British Heart Foundation suggest that around one in five of these deaths are directly related to alcohol, tobacco, and overweight and obesity.

These issues are also driving inequalities in Scotland. The gap in healthy life expectancy between Scotland's most and least deprived communities is 25 years, and we know that the consumption of alcohol and tobacco, as well as levels of overweight and obesity are a significant contributor to this gap.

To tackle inequalities and allow Scotland to prosper as a nation, we must support everyone to live a healthy life.

The Scottish Parliament has had a history of bold action on public health since its inception, leading the way in the UK on measures such as the 2006 smoke-free public places legislation.

Action must be taken to improve the pace of progress on tackling NCDs. To meet the Scottish Government's targets of halving childhood obesity, creating a tobacco free generation, and reducing alcohol consumption and harm, action is needed now.

That's why we, a group of MSPs from across Parliament, have come together to call for action to prevent NCDs through action on the health harming products that are contributing to this ill health.

Action to improve Scotland's health cannot wait. We urge the Scottish Government and our colleagues across Parliament to prioritise action to support healthy lives that will ultimately reduce health inequalities and support the long-term health of our NHS for future generations.



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