

# Computational Modeling for Assessing Population Impact (COMPUTE)

Population Modeling: What Is It and Why Does It Matter?

Raheema Muhammad-Kah, Ph.D., MSPH, on behalf of the CORESTA\* COMPUTE Task Force

Altria Client Services LLC, Richmond, VA 23219 Center for Research and Technology

October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025





#### Background

- Why We Use Models
- **✓** Application In Other Sectors

Why Modeling in the Tobacco Space

Regulatory Application in the Tobacco Space

Modeling Requirements

Modeling Framework

Summary



# Why do we use models?

If we had observations of the future, we would obviously trust them more than models, but unfortunately...

... observations of the future are not available at this time.



- Tom Knutson & Robert Tuleya



# What is a Computational Model?

Computer code that is used to simulate a complex system and predicts outcomes based on specific changes to the system

**Financial Industry** 







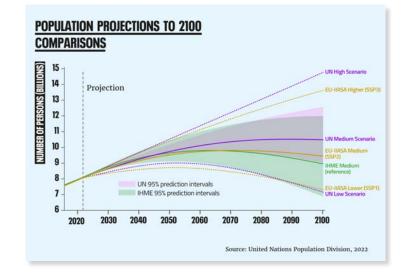
**Healthcare Industry** 

**Public Health** 

**Academia** 



**Insurance Industry** 





## MRTPA/PMTA Requirements (§911/910)

#### Section 911(g)(1) – Modified Risk Tobacco Products (MRTP) - Reduced Risk

**Demonstrate** that a MRTP as used by the consumers will:

- A. Significantly reduce the risk and harm of tobacco-related disease to the tobacco user.
- Secondly it should benefit the **health of the** population as a whole, taking into account both users of tobacco products and persons who do not currently use tobacco products.
- **FDA encourages** the development and application of innovative analytical methods to make preliminary estimates of the potential effects of some change in the marketplace. Methods...include secondary data analyses and computational modeling.

Section 910 - Premarket Tobacco Product Application (PMTA) – New Tobacco Products\*

**Demonstrate** that [the product]"... "...is appropriate for the protection of the public health shall be determined with respect to the risks and benefits to the population as a whole."



**66** FDA recommends that...The estimates should integrate all of the information in the PMTA regarding the product and its potential effects on health—to provide an overall assessment of the potential effect that the product's marketing has or may have on overall tobacco-related morbidity and mortality.

FDA PMTA Final Rule 2019

Source: Food and Drug Administration Center for Tobacco Products, 2012: Guidance for Industry -Modified Risk Tobacco Product Applications: Draft Guidance, Center for Tobacco Products,

http://www.fda.gov/TobaccoProducts/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/ucm262073.htm



## Population Modeling Framework Requirements

Risk

of using the new tobacco product relative to smoking



Changes

in product use patterns due to the introduction of the product



#### **Tobacco Product Standards**

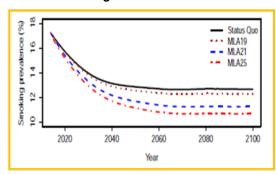
#### **Tobacco Product Standard**

#### Must be appropriate for the protection of public health

https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/rules-regulations-and-guidance/rules-and-regulations

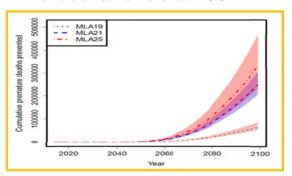
#### **IOM's 2015 Report on Raising Minimum Age of Legal Access to Tobacco Products**

#### Adult Smoking Prevalence - SimSmoke



IOM (Institute of Medicine). 2015. Public health implications of raising the minimum age of legal access to tobacco products. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

#### Premature Deaths Prevented - CISNET



^CISNET: The Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network



### Regulatory Modeling Best Practices

# Models must undergo rigorous development, evaluation and ensure that the model development process is:

Transparent

Comprehensive

Well-documented





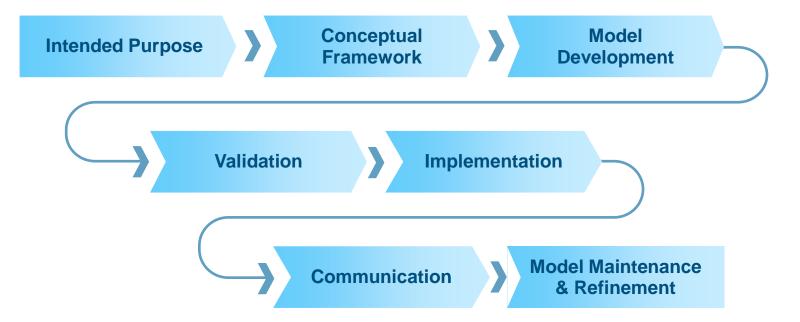


**Modeling is an iterative process** and should be updated as new information becomes available

George Rochester (CTP-FDA), Presentation at TPSAC, April, 2014.



## Regulatory Modeling Best Practices



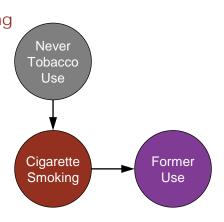
George Rochester (CTP-FDA), Presentation at TPSAC, April, 2014.



### Conceptual Population Modeling Framework

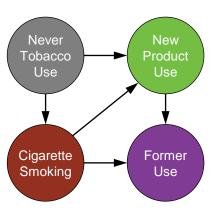
#### Base Case

Cigarette smoking is the most harmful tobacco product



#### **Modified Case**

Introduction of a new nicotine delivery product has the potential to reduce harm to public health



The difference between the Modified & Base Case determines whether the new product results in a net benefit to the population as a whole



## **Tipping Point Sensitivity Analyses**

# Public Health BENEFIT

# Public Health RISK





Tipping point can be used to evaluate the risk of initiation versus the benefit from adult smoker switching





MODELING is an important tool to answer questions regarding long-term population health impacts of a new product



Allows an integrated approach based on all the lines of evidence to determine the net benefit of marketing a new product



Provides the capability to test varying effects of Risk and Behavior (users and nonusers)



Is the best way to forecast numerous potential future scenarios