

Interagency Committee on Smoking and Health
April 13, 2005
“Addressing the Global Tobacco Epidemic”
Country Presentations — Presentation Notes

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Dr. Zatonski began by illustrating the simultaneous decline of infectious diseases and infant/maternal mortality with increases in non-communicable diseases and injury in young and middle age men in Eastern Europe from the mid-1900s to present. In 1995, in Poland, legislation was enacted that required a partial ban on smoking in public places, removal of vending machines, a complete ban on tobacco advertising and health warnings were required on cigarette packaging. This law has slowly led to a change in the social climate regarding acceptability of tobacco use and has also helped to build the capacity for effective smoking prevention and cessation services.

“Democracy is Healthier” was the theme of Dr. Zatonski’s talk, and data were presented that showed the decrease in smoking prevalence and increase in life expectancy in Poland that have occurred since the democratization of the country in the 1990s.

Following the five presentations, Ms. Henson thanked the speakers and moderated Q/A’s and discussion.

Following Committee comments, Ms. Shelton moderated a public comment session.