

Dip Shift

SHOULD WE CONVERT SMOKERS TO SNUFF?

By William Saletan

Updated Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2006, at 10:08 AM ET

Health advocates are debating whether to convert smokers to snuff.

Arguments for it:

- 1) Smoking has stopped declining in the U.S.
- 2) Most attempts to quit fail, even with counseling and nicotine gum and patches.
- 3) Studies suggest low-carcinogen varieties of snuff (smokeless tobacco) are 90% safer than cigarettes.
- 4) People are entitled to know this.
- 5) Switching to snuff appears to have helped Sweden cut smoking to an all time low.

Arguments against it:

- 1) Snuff is still bad for you.
- 2) If we suggest it's safe, more kids will take it up.
- 3) Tobacco companies want us to embrace snuff because it's their new business plan.
- 4) Without giving in to snuff, California has nearly matched Sweden's reduction in smoking.