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Wisconsin Cigarette Tax Revenue Collapses Under Outdated Policy as Users Switch to Low-Tax Vapes.

Wisconsin is ensnared in a fiscal trap of its own making, a consequence of relying on the taxation of human frailty to fund the apparatus of state government.

For decades, the revenues harvested from cigarette excise taxes served as a foundational pillar of the state general fund, quietly bankrolling public education, health care infrastructure, and municipal aid. The arrangement functioned under an ethical and structural contradiction. The financial stability of public services depended entirely on the steady preservation of a lethal addiction.

Now, as smoking rates plunge toward historic lows, the fiscal model is collapsing, exposing a state budget unprepared for the economic consequences of its own public health success.

The state's current revenue crisis is the direct legacy of a strategy implemented during periods of acute economic duress, according to the report "As cigarette smoke Subsides, new products raise questions" by the Wisconsin Policy Forum.

Continue reading.

The Milwaukee Independent

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