
Examined the role of self-consistency and self-enhancement motivations in adolescent cigarette smoking. 1,971 fifth through eighth graders were asked to provide information about the number of cigarettes they had smoked in their lifetime and to rate themselves and most smokers on 9 dimensions tapping coolness, sociability, and intelligence. Results show that similarity between the self-image and smoker stereotype increased with age. Evidence for self-consistency motivations for smoking was obtained on all three traits and overall, it was found that self-consistency becomes increasingly important from fifth to eighth grade. Support for self-enhancement motivations emerged for the cool trait for female and non-Hispanic White Ss. In addition, Hispanic Ss were found to have a self-image that is more similar to their smoker stereotype during late childhood. The importance of the self-identification process in adolescent smoking is discussed. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


The present study utilized a longitudinal design to assess whether self-consistency or self-enhancement motives are predictive of future smoking onset. Participants were 1,222 nonsmoking 5th through 8th graders who were followed into the next academic year. The results showed that teens who were above the median in similarity between their self-image and smoker stereotype on coolness, sociability, and intelligence were almost twice as likely to show smoking onset at the 2nd measurement. This is supportive of a self-consistency motive for adolescent smoking. The results of this study provide an important extension to previous cross-sectional research in this area. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)


Examined altruistic behavior of 270 male Ss toward 3 male Es dressed to represent stereotypic conservative college students, factory workers, or "hippies." Es requested a cigarette from Ss who were smoking or visibly had cigarettes with them in public, high-traffic areas. Factory workers received the greatest number of affirmative responses (80%) followed by conservative college students (59%), then "hippie" (54%) groups, the over-all difference being significant (p < .001). There was also a significant difference (p < .001) in attitudes toward object persons, which were increasingly positive in the same order as fulfilled requests. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


Examined how the image of females smoking was interpreted and whether that interpretation varied according to the smoking behavior and the sex of 80 raters (aged 19–24 yrs). Male and female smokers and non-smokers were shown poses of female models with or without a cigarette or just wearing glasses and rated them for attractiveness, intelligence and extent of being sexually interested. Models in the control pose (not smoking and no glasses) were considered most attractive and the least attractive when wearing glasses. On the "sexually interested" ratings, smoking pose
models were rated as the most sexually interested, whereas those wearing glasses were rated as the least sexually interested. Models wearing glasses were rated as the most intelligent and the smokers as the least intelligent. Smokers rated the smoker models as more attractive, but similar in intelligence to nonsmokers. Non-smokers, however, rated the smokers as less intelligent and less attractive than the non-smokers. No significant gender interactions were found indicating a consensus of agreement across the sexes. It is concluded that the crossed similarity-attraction effect influenced ratings on all dimensions in relation to the smoking pose. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


A qualitative study was undertaken to explore social attitudes towards smoking by pregnant women, mothers of preschool children and their partners based in Merstham and Horley, East Surrey. All respondents felt that smoking in pregnancy was associated with considerable social stigma and negative social attitudes. Nonsmokers were particularly negative in their views on smoking in pregnancy feeling that it was socially unacceptable. Women who smoked during pregnancy reported various negative social experiences such as receiving criticism from health professionals and community associates. They reported feeling under pressure to quit to achieve social acceptability as much as for health improvements. Some pregnant smokers denied smoking to health professionals, partners and colleagues and used private smoking places out of public view to reduce the chances of detection. Women who smoked or had a partner who smoked were more accepting of smoking in pregnancy than non-smokers and former smokers. Moreover, residents from the more socio-economically deprived area of Merstham were more tolerant of smoking in pregnancy and parenthood, compared to Horley-based respondents, regardless of their personal smoking status. They gave examples of local women they knew who had smoked in pregnancy without apparent complication. While all respondents were aware of health risks associated with smoking, smokers did not feel the risks were personally relevant to them and were exaggerated in an anti-smoking society. Health professionals need to be aware that pregnant women may not disclose smoking activity due to perceived social stigma and may require more intensive smoking cessation support services in socio-economically deprived areas. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)


45 male and 72 female college undergraduates (mean age 20.25 yrs) evaluated the character traits of men and women who were seen smoking cigars, smoking cigarettes, or not smoking. The evaluated adults were about 10 years older than the students. Irrespective of the evaluated persons' gender, ratings of appeal were specific to the gender of the evaluator. Men and women agreed in their perception of cigarette smokers as being less appealing than nonsmokers. However, whereas men ascribed markedly less appeal to cigar smokers than to cigarette smokers, women perceived cigar smokers as being as appealing as nonsmokers. This pattern was observed for all positive aspects of appeal; the inverse pattern was apparent for all negative aspects of appeal. In contrast, men and women concurred in judging cigar smokers as being more confident and secure than either nonsmokers or cigarette smokers. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


Introduction: Favorable views of cigarette use may be a potentiating factor that influences the progression of nicotine dependence among adolescents. Methods: Using data from the South Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey (2005–2007), a statewide two-stage
cluster sample of students in Grades 6–12 (N = 7,385), we examined attitudes toward smoking and quit behaviors among adolescent smokers across a range of smoking frequencies. Results: Compared with past-30-day nonsmokers, adolescents who smoked 1–2 days in the past month were more likely to believe that (a) smokers have more friends, (b) smoking looks cool, and (c) it is safe to smoke in the short term and then quit, but less likely to think that (d) tobacco is as addictive as other drugs and (e) smoking few cigarettes per day is harmful. Those who smoked 1–2 days in the past month were similar to more frequent smokers, including those who smoked daily. Similar findings were found for lifetime exposure to smoking. Among those who smoked 1–2 days in the previous month, motivation to quit (54%) and incidence of quit attempts (52% in past year) were slightly higher compared with heavier smokers. Discussion: Even minimal levels of cigarette use are associated with favorable views of smoking, and adolescents with minimal levels of cigarette use resemble chronic smokers in several key ways. Adolescents at very early stages of cigarette use are at significant risk for chronic use. Tobacco control efforts should capitalize on motivation to quit with focused prevention strategies that arrest the progression from nondaily to daily smoking. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)


Objective: To determine the effect of magazine incidental smoking imagery on youths' smoking intentions. Methods: A magazine was developed incorporating photographs of smokers (Smoking Magazine). A second version of the magazine (Non-smoking Magazine) included these photographs with the tobacco paraphernalia digitally erased. Equal numbers of smokers and non-smokers aged 14–17 years (n = 357) were randomly assigned to look through one version of the magazine and then asked a series of questions. Results: Smokers made more unprompted mention of smoking imagery than non-smokers after viewing Smoking Magazine (52% vs 34%; p < 0.05). Smokers viewing Smoking Magazine were more likely to report an urge to smoke (54% vs 40%; p < 0.05). Female non-smokers who viewed Smoking Magazine were more likely than those who viewed Non-smoking Magazine to state a future intention to smoke (13% vs 0%; p < 0.05). Female smokers were more attracted to the male models appearing in Smoking Magazine than Non-smoking Magazine (49% vs 24%; p < 0.05) and the opposite was true for female non-smokers (28% vs 52%; p < 0.05). Female smokers were also marginally more likely to desire looking like the female models in Smoking Magazine (64% vs 46%; p = 0.06) but no difference was observed in the non-smoking females (46% vs 46%). Male smokers and non-smokers did not differ in their responses by magazine type. Conclusions: Incidental positive smoking imagery in magazines can generate the same sorts of consumer effects attributed to advertising in general, including tobacco advertising. Sex specific results of our study may be explained by the choice of smoking images used. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)


Assessed 175 9th and 10th graders' self-perceptions (real and ideal), perceptions of their ideal date, and perceptions of stereotypic male and female smokers and nonsmokers. These perceptions were related to Ss' smoking status and to their intentions to smoke. Ss who smoked differed from nonsmokers in having real self-concepts and ideal dates that more closely matched the stereotype smoker. Most important, nonsmoking Ss who had self-concepts, ideal dates, and certain aspects of ideal selves that were close to the smoker stereotype were most likely to intend to smoke. (9 ref) (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)

Background: Since the political transition in 1991, Russia has been targeted intensively by the transnational tobacco industry. Already high smoking rates among men have increased further; traditionally low rates among women have more than doubled. The tobacco companies have so far faced little opposition as they shape the discourse on smoking in Russia. This paper asks what ordinary Russians really think about possible actions to reduce smoking.

Methods: A representative sample of the Russian population (1600 respondents) was interviewed face to face in November 2007. Results: Only 14% of respondents considered tobacco control in Russia adequate, while 37% thought that nothing was being done at all. There was support for prices keeping pace with or even exceeding inflation. Over 70% of all respondents favoured a ban on sales from street kiosks, while 56% believed that existing health warnings (currently 4% of front and back of packs) were inadequate. The current policy of designating a few tables in bars and restaurants as non-smoking was supported by less than 10% of respondents, while almost a third supported a total ban, with 44% supporting provision of equal space for smokers and non-smokers. Older age, non-smoking status and living in a smaller town all emerged as significantly associated with the propensity to support antismoking measures. The tobacco companies were generally viewed as behaving like most other companies in Russia, with three-quarters of respondents believing that these companies definitely or maybe bribe politicians. Knowledge of impact of smoking on health was limited with significant underestimation of dangers and addictive qualities of tobacco. A third believed that light cigarettes are safer than normal cigarettes. Conclusion: The majority of the Russian population would support considerable strengthening of tobacco control policies but there is also a need for effective public education campaigns.
education concerning this topic. Design/methodology/approach: The paper shows that a total of 12 group interviews were held with 101 students in the highest classes in secondary school (lower and higher secondary school and first class of intermediate vocational education). Findings: The findings in this paper indicate that most adolescents started smoking to be cool and because they were curious about the taste of a cigarette. Smokers felt that smoking is sociable and relaxing, while non-smokers emphasized the negative consequences of smoking. Smokers expected to quit smoking when the price of cigarettes further increased, or when they fell ill as a result of smoking. They did not expect to receive social support from their friends and parents during a quit attempt. The hardest times during their quit attempts would be in the presence of smoking friends, when feeling stressed or during a night out. Adolescents preferred to receive future education through the internet. A web site should consist of much colour and animated images, but should also be serious. Originality/value: The paper shows that computer tailoring could be an effective method of educating adolescents about (quitting) smoking through the internet, since it links up with their personal situation and therefore relevant advice can be given. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)

Smoking is widely recognized as an important public health issue for the general population and in the mental health field where the rates are particularly high. Mental health nurses are well positioned to take an active role in encouraging and supporting people diagnosed with mental illness to cease smoking. Information about smoking behavior and the attitudes of mental health nurses is necessary to develop strategies to prepare nurses for this important role. A cross-sectional study was conducted to examine the smoking behavior and attitudes of mental health nurses in Queensland, Australia, through a random selection of mental health nurses (n = 289). Smoking rates (16%) in this study were lower than those for the Australian population. Smokers were significantly (P < 0.001) less likely to agree that health-care facilities should promote a healthy environment. All participants, but predominantly those who smoked (P < 0.001), supported the individual's right to smoke. Participants believed they possessed appropriate skills to deliver the anti smoking message effectively, although stronger beliefs were characteristic of non-smokers. Participants who smoked perceived that their smoking status assisted in facilitating interactions with consumers (P < 0.001). The findings have implications for the health promotion activities of mental health nurses. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)

Eggleston, T., & Gibbons, F. X. (1999). The marlboro cowboy versus the surgeon general: Who is winning the war on smoking? In L. T. Benjamin, B. F. Nodine, R. M. Ernst & C. B. Broeker (Eds.), (pp. 336-342). Washington, DC US: American Psychological Association. (from the chapter) This demonstration allows students to examine the psychological principles used in smoking advertisements. By answering questions regarding the images portrayed in these advertisements, students examine the tobacco companies’ attempts to portray smoking as an attractive, exciting, and positive activity. In addition, students evaluate the effectiveness of the surgeon general’s warnings. The activity fosters the discussion of attitudes, stereotypes, and the assessment of theories such as the health belief model. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (chapter)

Questionnaires concerned with attitudes toward cigarette smoking were completed by 368 respondents who were taking part in a survey of audience reactions to 1 wk’s TV programs. Cigarette smokers were asked how difficult it would be for them to give up cigarettes, whether they would like to do so, whether they felt they were addicted to cigarettes, and how often a cigarette gave them real pleasure. Nonsmokers were asked
parallel questions to determine their perceptions of the average cigarette smoker. In comparison to how smokers saw themselves, nonsmokers saw the average smoker as more addicted, and as deriving less pleasure from cigarettes. Smokers who saw themselves as more addicted felt it would be more difficult for them to give up, smoked more cigarettes per day, said they would like to give up more, and derived somewhat more pleasure from cigarettes. Among those who had never smoked cigarettes, the attribution of addiction to the average smoker was related only to perceived difficulty of giving up. Lesser self-attributed addiction was also relevant to the prediction of which smokers claimed to be trying to reduce or give up smoking. Implications for attribution theory and for health education are discussed. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


Purpose: Waterpipe tobacco smoking is reported to be growing in popularity, particularly among college students. This study examined the prevalence of waterpipe tobacco smoking prevalence and perceptions in a university-based population. Method: This was a cross-sectional Internet-based survey of first-year university students, which examined waterpipe tobacco smoking and other tobacco use, risk perceptions, influences, and perceived social acceptability. Results: Waterpipe tobacco smoking within the past 30 days was reported by 20% (151/744). Relative to never users, users were more likely to perceive waterpipe tobacco smoking as less harmful than cigarette use. Conclusions: Because waterpipe tobacco smoking is increasing in prevalence and because it can involve toxicant inhalation at even greater levels than with cigarette smoking, it represents a growing public health issue. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)


In Phase I of a 2-phase experiment, 69 women nursing students and 38 women student teachers (aged 17–40 yrs), 27% of whom were smokers, completed a questionnaire and an interview investigating parental expectations about smoking and social perceptions of the female smoker. Results indicate that among the minority of parents who expressed their attitudes toward their daughters' smoking in relation to sex-role norms, smoking was presented as unacceptable for women. More than half of the Ss perceived a negative cultural stereotype to be operating in contemporary society and two-thirds recognized its existence in the past. In Phase II, 66 nursing students and 28 student teachers from Phase I attributed characteristics to female smokers (SMs) and nonsmokers (NSMs). Results suggest that SMs and NSMs have divergent views about the image of the female SM. The NSM's view was based on the older cultural stereotype that views smoking as male-oriented behavior and hence unacceptable for women, while the SM's view corresponded to the perspective that sees women's smoking as symbolic of social change and greater independence. (50 ref) (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


Evaluated the impact of a smoke free program implemented at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, in 1996. This program included a prohibition to smoke in university buildings everywhere except in limited areas, and a smoking cessation counselling service. Surveys were conducted before and 4 months after the program was implemented, in representative samples of 833 program participants and 1023 university members not exposed to the program. In retrospective assessments, participants reported being less bothered by environmental tobacco smoke after programme implementation, but no between group difference was detected in prospective assessments. Relationships between smokers and non-smokers improved moderately in the intervention group and
remained unchanged in the comparison group. Proportions of smokers who attempted to quit smoking in the past four months increased from 2.0% to 3.8% in the intervention group and remained unchanged at 3.5% in the comparison group. The program was appreciated by university members. A regulation prohibiting smoking everywhere but in limited areas of university buildings was acceptable and reduced the perception of bother by environmental tobacco smoke. It did not, however, influence smoking habits or attitudes toward smoking. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


This study was produced in the context of the first author's thesis at Athens University and was a collaboration between the Department of Clinical Care Medicine, Athens University, and Attiki Child Psychiatric Hospital. It was supported by a project grant from the THORAX Foundation, Greece. Objective: To study the smoking behavior, attitudes, and beliefs of Greek adolescents, as well as the risk and preventive factors for the onset of smoking and to obtain data to serve in the planning of comprehensive antismoking campaigns tailored to the Greek adolescent's specific profile. Sample and Method: A stratified, nationwide, representative, school-based sample of 3827 Greek adolescents was surveyed during the academic year 2001-2002, using a questionnaire on smoking and Achenbach's Youth Self-Report. Results: Cigarette smoking is a serious problem among Greek youth. Family and peers play a primary role in shaping smoking attitudes and habits. Adolescents who smoke regularly have increased rates of psychopathology as indicated by higher scores on the Externalising and Attention Problem scales of Achenbach's Youth Self-Report, compared to adolescents who are non-smokers. The data obtained can indeed guide smoking prevention strategies in Greece. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)


Aims: We explore young children's attitudes toward, beliefs about, and lifestyle associations with cigarette smoking using direct and indirect measures. Design, setting and participants: Second (n = 100) and fifth grade (n = 141) elementary school students (i.e. 7-8 and 10-11-year-olds) were excused from class and individually interviewed. Methods: Participants selected pictures in response to the questions: who would like to smoke cigarettes the most and who would like to smoke cigarettes the least? Their picture choices were probed using open-ended prompts designed to elicit the beliefs and life-style associations underlying their choices. Survey-based measures of attitudes and beliefs were also collected. Findings: Second graders reported life-style associations with cigarette smoking that were consistent with those of fifth graders. While their associations with smoking are generally negative, children appear to perceive that others feel that smoking makes them look cool and feel cool and also helps them to fit in. By fifth grade, many children believe that smoking can help to reduce stress and alleviate negative mood states. The presence of a smoker in the household does not appear to affect these associations, suggesting that they may be being shaped by external socialization agents. Conclusion: Young children appear to be developing understandings of cigarette smoking that go beyond knowing that cigarettes are products that are smoked. As some of their perceptions appear likely to predispose them for future experimentation, young children need to be included in prevention research so that age-appropriate interventions can be developed. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)


Examined age-, gender-, and race/ethnicity-related differences in beliefs about and perceived norms regarding smoking in a multi-ethnic urban sample of 1,161 4th through
7th grader children. The study draws upon the M. Fishbein and I. Ajzen's (1975) Theory of Reasoned Action. Results showed that, relative to those in earlier grades, children in higher grades held more positive beliefs about the positive outcomes of smoking and the long-term negative consequences of smoking, but there was no association between grade level and beliefs about the immediate negative consequences of smoking. Children in higher grades also perceived more favorable norms toward smoking. There were few gender or race/ethnicity differences at these ages in children's beliefs about smoking. These outcome and normative beliefs were related to smoking behavior. Of the nine beliefs about the effects of smoking, all but two were significantly related to smoking behavior. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


Examined the social stigmatization of tobacco smokers (i.e., the extent to which smokers are seen as discredited persons). In 772 smoking and 521 nonsmoking households, evidence of an unfavorable stereotype of smokers was found. The ex-smoker enjoyed a positive image, but one which was slightly less favorable than that of someone who has never smoked. A majority of nonsmoking Ss preferred nonsmokers in roles in which the role incumbents were likely to be in close proximity. Friendship networks and marital relationships tended to be segregated along lines of smoking behavior. Sociodemographic and attitudinal correlates of anti-smoker attitudes are explored, and implications of stigmatization for changing smokers' behavior are examined. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


Objective: This study was designed to investigate how young men and women smokers and non-smokers talk about the impact of smoking on appearance, with the aim of using these accounts to inform anti-smoking campaigns targeted at young people. Design. Volunteer smokers and non-smokers took part in 24 focus groups. Method: Eighty-seven men and women aged 17–24 were asked to talk about impacts of smoking on appearance. Results: A thematic analysis of transcripts suggested that weight gain after quitting was only a significant concern for the younger (17-year-old) women. Non-smokers of both genders expressed concern about yellowing of skin and teeth if they started smoking, and women non-smokers were concerned about skin ageing. Smokers believed that smoking made them look 'cool', mature, and sophisticated and would quit only if skin ageing and other negative effects on appearance became visible. Conclusions: Appearance concerns are relevant to the decision whether to start and quit smoking, and are linked to gender and age. Results are discussed in relation to implications for the development of age- and gender-relevant anti-smoking interventions. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)


Estimated the prevalence of smoking and described the habits, attitudes, and practices related to smoking among students of Jordan University of Science and Technology. 650 students (50.6% male, aged 17-28 yrs) were recruited. They were made familiar with a modified Arabic version of the World Health Organisation Smoking Questionnaire and the Attitudes towards Smoking Questionnaire to study their habits, attitudes, and beliefs in relation to smoking. The study revealed that the prevalence of smoking was 28.6%. Friends were the main source of the first smoking, and this most often occurred after 15 years of age. Males preferred smoking in the cafeteria, females in the bathroom. The main advantage of smoking for males was calming down, while for females it was independence. Non-smokers chose not to smoke because of health and hatred of the habit. The non-smokers had more positive attitudes against smoking and were more aware of the adverse effects of smoking. The reasons smokers gave for starting smoking
were pleasure, followed by stress and curiosity. Two thirds of smokers intended to quit smoking in the future. Some smokers disagreed with some criticisms against smoking, and reasons why they did not want to quit included social attitudes, addiction, and not knowing how to quit. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


The authors examined the contributions of the minority stress model, traditional masculine gender roles, and perceived social norms in accounting for gay men's use of alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs, and risky sexual practices. Three hundred fifteen gay men recruited from listserv communities completed measures assessing internalized homophobia, stigma, antigay physical attack, masculinity, and perceptions of normative health behaviors, along with health risk behaviors of alcohol use, illicit drug use, smoking, and high-risk sexual behaviors. Pearson correlations supported several hypotheses; social norms and masculinity variables were significantly related to health risk behaviors. Four multiple regression analyses indicated that masculinity and perceptions of social norms predicted health risk behaviors. Additionally, a significant interaction was found between minority stress and perceptions of social norms. The clinical implications of the findings, limitations, and suggestions for future research are discussed. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)


This article reviews several classes of theories to elucidate the relationship between adolescent cigarette smoking and friends' cigarette smoking. Perceived influence theories hinge upon an adolescent's perception of friends' smoking behavior. External influence theories are those in which friends' smoking behavior overtly influences adolescent smoking. Group level theories examine how differences at the level of subculture, gender, and race/ethnicity influence the relationship under study. Network theories are also discussed. A model integrating relevant theories into a longitudinal model representing friend influences on adolescent smoking is presented, along with implications of the results presented for adolescent tobacco prevention programs. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)


Cultural stereotypes might help explain why smoking is less prevalent among Hispanic than non-Hispanic White women, whereas obesity is more prevalent. Hispanic (n=130) and non-Hispanic White (n=114) women rated their thoughts and feelings regarding a female smoker and an overweight woman. Ethnicity did not influence evaluations, but attitudes toward smokers were more positive among more acculturated Hispanic women, F(1, 66)=9.9, p<.01. Less acculturated women evaluated an overweight woman more positively than a smoker, F(1, 28)=5.65, p<.05; more acculturated women did the opposite, F(1, 36)=5.92, p<.05. Smokers evaluated smokers more positively than overweight women, F(1, 86)=40.8, p<.01; nonsmokers did the opposite, F(1, 138)=7.7, p<.01. Personal body weight did not influence evaluations. Acculturation and smoking status appear to have a greater influence than ethnicity or weight status on women's attitudes toward smoking and weight. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)


Public sentiment in the United States has been evolving against cigarette smoking.
Providing support for stronger tobacco control legislation, unfavorable public sentiment has contributed to the decrease in the size of the smoking population in this country. The present study hypothesizes that the unfavorable public sentiment may also discourage cigarette smoking by creating an unfavorable "smoking climate" in which smoking is socially rejected as a deviant behavior. Analyses of several secondary data-sets provided evidence that smoking rates are lower in the states where the public holds relatively unfavorable sentiment toward cigarette smoking. The relationship between public sentiment and smoking rates was significant even after controlling for the effects of state-level tobacco control measures, such as cigarette taxes and smoking restrictions in private workplaces and restaurants. We also found that smokers who have experienced unfavorable public sentiment are more willing to quit smoking than those who have not, supporting the hypothesized effects of antismoking public sentiment on smoking behaviors. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)


Very little is known about the prevalence, patterns, social norms, and trends of smoking among students attending historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). The current study assessed the prevalence, patterns, and norms associated with cigarette smoking among a cross-sectional random sample of 371 undergraduate college students at a historically Black university in North Carolina. Eighty-seven percent of the respondents were non-smokers. Eighty-six percent of the students reported that smoking was discouraged among their peers and 45% responded that they preferred associating with peers who did not smoke cigarettes. Seventy-one percent of the students responded that they did not smoke before the age of 18 and 55% reported that, while they were growing up, neither of their parents smoked. Preliminary findings of this study indicate that smoking is not widely practiced and has not become a socially acceptable or encouraged norm among college students attending an HBCU. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)


Conducted 2 investigations of the image of smoking held by 99 18–49 yr old health science students. Ss were given a brief description of a fellow student and asked for their first impressions. For some Ss, the descriptions included the information that the student smoked, while in other conditions this information was deleted. Study 1 showed that nursing Ss held a clear and mainly positive stereotype of the young female smoker, regardless of whether or not they smoked themselves. Study 2 replicated this finding with a group of physiotherapy Ss and extended it to include male smokers. Results are discussed in terms of their implications for community interventions; in particular, it is suggested that the existence of a positive stereotype of the smoker among health professionals could seriously undermine such interventions. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


The current study's three aims were to develop a measure of peer pressure, to examine the relationship between peer pressure and drinking and smoking, and to examine changes across grade and stage of involvement in the dimensions and strength of peer pressure. A multimechanistic model of peer influence is presented, specifying three mechanisms of peer influence: modeling, normative influence, and peer pressure. A measure of peer pressure was developed which addressed concerns emerging from previous research. Specifically, the scales specified behaviors reflecting pressures teens reported in focus groups. The scale did not use the label 'peer pressure' and included
multiple dimensions of peer pressure. The validity of the peer pressure scales was supported. Findings suggest that peer pressure from close friends does not follow a consistent pattern in terms of direction. The relationship between peer pressure and behavior was examined across grade and stage of involvement in drinking and smoking. Peer pressure to drink and peer pressure to smoke increased across grade, as expected. For drinking, maintainers showed a significantly stronger relationship between pressure and drinking than nonusers and initiators. For smoking, initiators did not show a significant relationship between pressure and smoking. Implications of findings for future research and prevention programming are discussed. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


263 Hispanic and 150 White non-Hispanic smokers reported the stereotypes they held of smokers in general. All Ss thought that smokers were nervous, friendly, and sociable; White non-Hispanics felt more certain than Hispanics that smokers were friendly, aggressive, sociable, attractive, and feminine. Factor analyses of the responses showed 3 common (across ethnicity) factors: sociability, self-presentation, and nervousness. Only the self-presentation factor showed significant differences between the 2 ethnic groups. The amount of cigarettes smoked had no effect on the stereotypes, but the more highly acculturated Hispanics showed stereotypes that resembled those of the White non-Hispanics. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


In the past decade waterpipe (WP) smoking (a.k.a. hookah, shisha, and narghile) has been steadily spreading among the youth around the world. The allure of this tobacco use method for the youth can stem from its pleasant smooth smoke, social ambience and the perception of reduced harm. The material in this review is based on detailed Medline search for articles appearing especially in the past two years that are of relevance to WP epidemiology, health and addictive effects, and WP-related tobacco control policies. It shows that WP smoking is continuing to spread among the youth worldwide, and perhaps represents the second global tobacco epidemic since the cigarette. Available evidence suggests that the prevalence of current (past month) WP smoking range from 6 to 34% among Middle Eastern adolescents, 5%–17% among American adolescents, and that WP use is increasing globally. Studies on the health effects of WP smoking are limited by methodological quality, as well as by the novelty of WP epidemic relative to the long latency of important smoking-related health outcomes. Still, research indicates substantial WP harmful effects similar to those of cigarettes, as well as to the potential of providing a bridge to cigarette smoking or relapse. Developing effective interventions to curb WP use among the youth requires a detailed understanding of how dependence develops in WP users, and how it is shaped by WP's unique features such as the following; the predominantly intermittent use with prolonged sessions, preparation time, accessibility, potent sensory cues, and convivial experience of group use. It also requires assessing effective policy options such as factual and visible health warnings on all its parts, as well as youth access and indoor smoking restrictions. WP smoking is currently showing all signs of a burgeoning global epidemic with serious implications for public health and tobacco control worldwide. Investment in research and policy initiatives to understand and curb WP use needs to become a public health priority. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)


The purpose of this study was to compile 2005-6 baseline data from the Ontario Tobacco Survey, a population-based telephone survey of adults in Ontario, Canada. Seven items on smoking attitudes and behaviors were used to differentiate current smokers; 10 items
were used to differentiate non-smokers. Responses were coded, weighted and standardized. A cluster analysis was used to categorize smokers and non-smokers into groups. Sociodemographic and smoking-related characteristics were examined across clusters, adjusting for the complex survey design. Proportions of smokers in the three clusters remained largely unchanged between the two studies, with a modest increase in the proportion of ‘reluctant’ smokers. With regard to non-smokers, there were dramatic differences between the two periods of data collection. This analysis presents encouraging findings for tobacco control. These findings suggest that the social climate in Ontario may be favorable to further tobacco control interventions. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


Demarketing (i.e., the act of discouraging consumption or use of specific products or services] of cigarettes has been a public policy objective for the past 40 years or more. The use of demarketing actions, such as antismoking advertising campaigns, has contributed to the decrease of the proportion of smokers in the general population. A consequence of demarketing efforts has been the development of negative stereotypes of smokers. The author investigated whether the negative stereotypes that are directed at smokers can be transferred by observers to services that the smokers use. The results of the scenario-based experiment indicated that participants who had read narrative descriptions of a customer had expectations of service atmospherics (physical characteristics, e.g., cleanliness, odors) that were more negative when associated with a smoker target than when associated with a nonsmoker target. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)


Objective: To examine social–cognitive change associated with behavior change after the introduction of a smoke-free public places policy. Design: Adults (N = 583) who use public houses licensed to sell alcohol (pubs) completed questionnaires assessing alcohol and tobacco consumption and social–cognitive beliefs 2 months prior to the introduction of the smoking ban in England on July 1, 2007. Longitudinal follow-up (N = 272) was 3 months after the introduction of the ban. Main outcome measures: Social–cognitive beliefs, daily cigarette consumption, and weekly alcohol consumption. Results: Smokers consumed considerably more alcohol than did nonsmokers at both time points. However, a significant interaction of Smoking Status × Time showed that while smokers had consumed fewer units of alcohol after the ban, nonsmokers showed an increase over the same period. There was a significant reduction in number of cigarettes consumed after the ban. Subjective norms concerning not smoking, and perceived severity of smoking-related illness increased across time. Negative outcomes associated with not smoking were reduced among former smokers and increased across time among smokers. Regression analyses showed that changes in subjective norm and negative outcome expectancies accounted for significant variance in change in smoking across time. Conclusion: Results suggest that the smoking ban may have positive health benefits that are supported by social–cognitive change. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)


Aim: To understand adolescents' smoking behavior by analyzing retrospective self-ratings of the reasons encouraging them to take up smoking. Method: Participating in the study were 883 students (373 boys) of elementary and secondary schools in Kosice, Slovak Republic (74.9% of adolescents in the sample reported having experience with smoking). Smoking status and reasons for taking up smoking were measured using questionnaires.
Results: Boys and girls ranked as the most important reasons for taking up smoking novelty, curiosity, peer influence and enjoyment seeking. Significant effect of grade was found in boys' ratings of peer influence, parental influence, relaxation in social situation, older siblings' influence and media advertising, but no significant effect of grade was found in girls' ratings with the exception of media advertising. Significant effect of smoking status was found in boys' ratings of every reason for taking up smoking, and for girls' ratings of every reason except curiosity, parental influence and rebelliousness. Effective prevention strategies encouraging non-smokers to fulfill such urges as curiosity, novelty- and enjoyment-seeking in ways other than by smoking, need to be developed and implemented. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)


Ninth graders were randomly exposed to one of eight slice-of-life videotapes showing stimulus advertising (cigarette, antismoking, both, neither) and unfamiliar peers who either did or did not smoke cigarettes. The findings indicate that the cigarette advertising primed positive smoker stereotypes, which caused subjects to seek out favorable information about the peers shown smoking. Ss' beliefs and intentions about cigarette consumption were thereby enhanced by the joint effects of advertising and peers. However, an antismoking advertisement shown in conjunction with cigarette advertising made salient negative smoker stereotypes, evoked unfavorable thoughts about peers shown smoking, and prevented cigarette advertising from promoting smoking. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


Antismoking advertising is increasingly used, but its message content is controversial. In an initial study in which adolescents coded 194 advertisements, the authors identified seven common message themes. Using protection motivation theory, the authors develop hypotheses regarding the message theme effects on cognitions and intentions and test them in an experiment involving 1667 adolescents. Three of the seven message themes increased adolescents' nonsmoking intentions compared with a control; all did so by enhancing adolescents' perceptions that smoking poses severe social disapproval risks. Other message themes increased health risk severity perceptions but were undermined by low perceived vulnerability. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


It is suggested that a more profound understanding of cigarette smoking among adolescents should include the social images they have of smokers. The main goal of the present study was to investigate the role of smoker prototypes in adolescents' smoking status and to compare the role of negative and positive smoker images. Data were collected from high school students in two counties of the Southern Plain Region of Hungary (N = 548; ages between 14 and 21 years). The self-administered questionnaires contained items on sociodemographics, smoking occurrence, and smoker prototypes. Factor analysis revealed three smoker prototypes: a negative prototype (e.g., dull, childish), a positive social appearance prototype (e.g., cool, popular), and a positive individual competence prototype (such as smart, independent) all with satisfactory reliability. Odds ratios suggest that the role of the negative prototypes for nonsmokers is greater than the role of positive prototypes for smokers. For boys, positive individual competence prototype also seems to be important. Health promotion programs should
focus on fostering negative social images in prevention. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)


The implications of smoking refusal for personal identity style were studied through conversations in six small focus groups or dyads of 13- and 14-year-old non-smokers from an urban New Zealand secondary school. The approach to analyzing their talk was informed by notions of 'performativity' and 'social space' to focus on the connections between identity and social relations. Smoking emerged as a key signifier of power and status. It was salient at both top and bottom ends of the social hierarchy depending upon the competence displayed in smoking as part of a larger ensemble of personal deportment and behavior. Being a non-smoker therefore inevitably carried connotations of being 'average' or 'in the middle,' presenting non-smoking adolescents with the problem of accrediting themselves against superior 'smoker cool' groups. A discourse analytic approach was used to examine the resources and strategies participants brought to bear on this 'problem,' which was then seen to be solved differently by boys and girls. Boys could establish alternatives to 'smoker cool' through physical activity, girls had little recourse but to accept their inferior status. The implications of this for health education and promotion are discussed (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


Background: Although waterpipe tobacco smoking seems to be increasing on U.S. university campuses, these data have come from convenience samples. Purpose: We aimed to determine the prevalence of and associations with waterpipe tobacco smoking among a random sample of students. Methods: We surveyed a random sample of graduate and undergraduate students at a large, urban university. We used multivariate modeling to determine independent associations between belief-related predictors and waterpipe tobacco smoking. Results: Of the 647 respondents, waterpipe smoking was reported in 40.5%, over the past year in 30.6%, and over the past 30 days in 9.5%. Over half of the sample (52.1%) perceived that tobacco smoking from a waterpipe was less addictive than cigarette smoking. In fully adjusted multivariate models, 1-year waterpipe smoking was associated with low perceived harm (OR = 2.54, 95% CI = 1.68, 3.83), low perceived addictiveness (OR = 4.64, 95% CI = 3.03, 7.10), perception of high social acceptability (OR = 20.00, 95% CI = 6.03, 66.30), and high perception of popularity (OR = 4.72, 95% CI = 2.85, 7.82). Conclusions: In this sample, lifetime waterpipe use was as common as lifetime cigarette use. Perception of harm, perception of addictiveness, social acceptability, and popularity were all strongly related to waterpipe smoking. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)


Objective: Anti-smoking PSAs are not always effective in reducing cigarette smoking, and there is a lack of research into mechanisms through which PSAs affect the attitudes and behaviors of viewers. The present research was designed to better understand how smokers and non-smokers process anti-smoking ads. Design: In a repeated measures design, the accessibility of smokers’ (N = 70) and non-smokers’ (N = 96) attitudes toward and norms concerning smoking were assessed and then their reactions to four anti-smoking PSAs were measured. Results: The accessibility of smokers' attitudes toward smoking--how quickly they bring their attitudes to mind--predicted their central processing of ad content, and smokers who counterargued in response to the ads were
not persuaded by them. The accessibility of smokers' norms for smoking--how quickly they bring to mind social support for smoking--predicted their peripheral processing of the ads, and imbued resistance to persuasion. In contrast, non-smokers' attitude and norm accessibility were unrelated to ad processing. Conclusion: These results suggest that anti-smoking ads may have paradoxical effects on smokers and may actually undermine anti-smoking efforts. Furthermore, smokers who can readily access a pro-smoking norm are unlikely to process anti-smoking messages, which may further hinder anti-smoking efforts. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)

This study investigated possible explanations for ethnic and gender differences in smoking prevalence. Areas focused upon were attitudes, ethnic identity, and family factors. Both cigarette and cigar smoking were studied. Participants in the study were college students, the majority of whom were 18 or 19 years-old. Four-hundred twelve participants responded to a questionnaire developed to acquire information related to demographics, cigarette-smoking history and current use, cigar-smoking history and current use, ethnic identity, parent factors, attitudes toward cigarettes, and attitudes toward cigars. The study revealed that smokers compared to non-smokers had more positive attitudes toward cigarettes and cigars. Additionally, adolescents who perceived negative parental reactions or consequences to their smoking cigarettes or cigars had stronger negative attitudes about smoking and lower smoking rates than adolescents who did not perceive such negative messages. Males perceived stronger behavioral consequences and females appeared to perceive stronger verbal or emotional parental reactions to their smoking. Moreover, family messages about smoking differed by ethnicity such that non-whites compared to Whites, reported stronger negative parental messages about smoking and had lower rates of smoking. As expected, males had higher rates of cigar use than females. Whites had higher rates of cigar use than non-white groups. The differences among non-white groups' use of cigars was minimal. Cigarette users had more positive attitudes toward cigars than cigarette non-smokers. This study indicates that attitudes about smoking are highly related to smoking rates. Therefore, focusing on ways to change attitudes is a way to reduce smoking among adolescents. Given the existence of ethnic and gender differences in smoking rates and attitudes, approaches to attitude change should be specific to ethnic and gender groups. For example, addressing barriers to effective parental messages to children among some ethnic groups appears to be an important area to consider when designing interventions. Finally, since younger people are trying cigars across ethnic and gender groups, it is important to include cigars as a component of prevention efforts. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)

Two studies examined the effects of context and motivational state on two implicit measures of attitudes toward smoking (priming Fazio, Jackson, Dunton, & Williams, 1996] and the Implicit Association Test IAT; Greenwald, McGhee, & Schwartz, 1998]) as well as on explicit attitudes among nonsmokers and smokers. The priming measure was sensitive to changes in the salience of different aspects of smoking and to changes in motivational state (nicotine deprivation). There were only modest relations between explicit and implicit attitudes, and the two implicit measures were generally uncorrelated. These results have implications for the complexity and ambivalence of attitudes toward smoking held by smokers and for interventions that seek to change their attitudes and smoking behavior. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)

This special issue of Nicotine & Tobacco Research represents a milestone in the thinking in our field about variations in smoking patterns. Over the past several decades, a stereotype has developed—the image of a smoker as consuming one cigarette after another, expressing a constant hunger for nicotine—a need to frequently redose with nicotine to maintain a steady concentration of nicotine in the bloodstream. Like many stereotypes, this one has a large element of truth. Around 1980, the average smoker’s daily cigarette consumption was 32 cigarettes/day. Smoking, even hourly, results in steady or escalating nicotine levels over the waking day. This pattern of steady and frequent dosing was striking, indeed, and helped establish tobacco smoking as nicotine dependence. Light and intermittent smokers (LITS) are typical smokers in many parts of the world, but this may change in the future as smoking becomes more affordable and more heavily marketed. In the developed world, where heavy daily smoking has dominated, LITS are likely to become an increasingly important segment of smokers. We need to understand how smoking patterns evolve in response to changes in the social and economic conditions in which smoking occurs. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


Few studies have examined the psychosocial aspects of tobacco smoking in young adults, particularly among alternative forms such as waterpipe. To address this gap, we examined the association of psychosocial characteristics (i.e., sociodemographics, risk perception, social norms, and pluralistic ignorance) with waterpipe, cigar, and cigarette smoking in college freshmen. Data are from a cross-sectional internet survey conducted during spring semester 2004 at Johns Hopkins University, N = 411. Multinomial logistic regression was used to determine the association between psychosocial risk factors and waterpipe, cigar, and cigarette smoking. Results reveal that (1) psychosocial risk profiles of smokers differed by type of smoker and by type of tobacco product smoked, and (2) freshmen perceived the waterpipe as the most attractive product, out of the three products evaluated, to use among their peers. This study provides some of the first data on the association of psychosocial characteristics and various forms of tobacco smoking in young adults. This area of research is of increasing importance as a surge of waterpipe use among college students is becoming evident and interventions to reduce and prevent use are critically needed. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)


Little information exists regarding the perceptions that ethnic-specific groups of Asian American men have about cigarette smoking. Thirty Asian American men of immigrant status living in Seattle, Washington, were stratified by ethnicity (Chinese and Vietnamese), language (Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese) and age to comprise six focus groups (two Mandarin speaking men aged 20-40 years and 10 aged 41-65+ years; three Cantonese men aged 20-40 years and another six aged 41-65+ years; four Vietnamese men aged 20-40 years and another five aged 41-65+ years). All group interviews were audio-taped and six separate hard-copy transcripts were produced, independently theme-coded by three investigators to ensure inter-rater reliability, and analyzed with QRS NUD*IST ethnographic software. Bandura (1969, 1986) categorized emergent contextual themes within the constructs of "predisposing, enabling, and reinforcing" behavioral determinants from Social Learning Theory. Smoking to be sociable emerged as the most salient theme. Awareness of tobacco-related diseases other than lung cancer was less evident, as was a self-perceived lack of will-power to quit. Concerns about side-stream smoking affecting family members, along with smoking to alleviate stress, were key findings. Further tobacco-related research is needed that incorporates considerations for

Examined the self-reported influence that adolescents exerted on others, and the characteristics and attitudes of those who actively promoted the messages to smoke or quit smoking. 1,263 Form 4 students (aged 14–15 yrs) in New Zealand were assessed for smoking status and history, intention to continue or quit smoking, attitudes and beliefs about smoking, and advertising and sponsorship. 25% of the Ss promoted anti-smoking messages/activities and 3% promoted smoking by encouraging or forcing friends, siblings, and acquaintances to smoke. Ss who quit smoking were more likely to promote non-smoking messages. Positive beliefs about smoking identified Ss who actively promoted smoking, and positive beliefs about the adverse effects of cigarette advertising identified the anti-smoking Ss. All Ss agreed that smoking was a waste of money, reduced fitness and affected non-smokers' health, but were neutral about its effect on weight loss. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


Objective. To examine the relationship between physical self-perceptions, Body Dysmorphic Disorder (BDD), and smoking status among college-aged women. Methods. A cross-sectional study design was selected to study women (n = 364) who completed a 79-item questionnaire that measured physical self-perceptions and BDD. Results. BDD items including fear of weight gain, social avoidance and comparison, along with perceptions of physical health and medical utilization predicted smoking behavior. Conclusions. Negative perceptions of physical health and three diagnostic components associated with BDD may moderate smoking cessation attempts and maintain smoking behavior college-aged women. Keywords. physical self-perception, body dysmorphic disorder, body image and smoking, women's health. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


Explored the expectations of 7,022 adolescents (11-16 yrs old) about their future cigarette, alcohol and illicit drug use. Participants completed a survey relating to current substance use and beliefs about future use of cigarettes, alcohol and illicit drugs. Respondents were asked confidentially about occasions of cigarette, alcohol and illicit drugs use as well as about their belief about use in the year following the survey. Of those children who currently smoked, 73% believed it likely they would be doing so in a year's time. Only 3% of non-smokers believed they would begin to smoke in the year following the survey. 83% of alcohol drinkers believed they would be drinking in a year's time compared with 20% of non-drinkers and 63% of illicit drug users believed in their continued use. Only 3% of non-drug users believed they would initiate use in the year following the survey. Results found that nonsmokers had unrealistic beliefs about their likelihood of taking up smoking within a year and that many current smokers had equally unrealistic beliefs about giving up the habit. Adolescents had more realistic expectations about future alcohol use. When it came to illicit drug use, adolescents were clear in their beliefs about future use. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


Presents the development of indices using baseline data from the Evaluation Survey for the COMMIT. The indices are designed to measure 2 primary attitude constructs that
relate to smoking behavior: beliefs about smoking as a public health problem (SPHP) and norms and values concerning smoking (NVS). Two general approaches to index construction, the rational method and the factor analytic method, were used. Item analysis suggested good internal consistency for both indices. Seven subconstructs emerged from the factor analysis accounting for 55% of the total variance. The SPHP and NVS items uniquely identify with 4 factors and 3 factors, respectively, confirming the validity of the 2 indices. Confirmatory factor analyses of a different data set provided further validation. Validity was also assessed by an examination of the relationships between index scores and smoking status. Smokers reported significantly higher scores than non-smokers on the 2 measures, indicating that smokers have more favorable attitudes toward smoking than non-smokers. Findings suggest that the 2 a priori constructs of SPHP and NVS are empirically distinguishable components of attitudes toward smoking, and that the indices developed here are reliable and valid measures of those constructs. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


High emotional intelligence (EI) is associated with decreased adolescent smoking. Acculturation to the United States is a risk factor for adolescent smoking. High EI may buffer the relationship between acculturation to the United States and perceptions of the social consequences of smoking (PSC). Emotional intelligence is the ability to: accurately perceive, appraise, and express emotion; access and/or generate feelings in facilitating thought; understand emotion and emotional knowledge; and regulate emotions. Emotional intelligence (measured by the Multifactor Emotional Intelligence Scale, Adolescent Version), acculturation, and PSC were assessed in 2001 from 416 Southern California sixth graders (47% boys; mean age = 11.3 yrs; 32% Hispanic/ Latino, 29% Asian/Pacific Islander, 13% White, 19% Multiethnic, 6% Other). There was a significant EI x US acculturation interaction (p < 0.01) suggesting that those with high EI perceived more social consequences associated with smoking. As the U.S. population becomes increasingly diversified, identifying protective variables and designing effective prevention programs for adolescents of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds becomes important. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)


This study examined adolescent attitudes towards tobacco control laws. An exploratory factor analysis, using surveys from over 9,000 students, identified the following three factors: (1) youth attitudes towards the efficacy of tobacco control laws, (2) youth attitudes towards tobacco possession laws and (3) youth attitudes towards tobacco sales laws. Findings revealed that smokers reported less favorable attitudes towards the efficacy of tobacco control laws, tobacco possession laws, and tobacco sales laws than non-smokers. In addition, youth in lower grade levels reported more support for the efficacy of tobacco control laws and tobacco possession laws than those in higher grades. Findings indicate that there are different dimensions of youth attitudes towards tobacco control laws, and that smoking status and grade in school have important relationships to these different factors. This understanding might better allow the perspectives of youth to be an additional consideration when developing and implementing laws aimed at minimizing underage smoking. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved) (journal abstract)


Examined the role of optimistic bias in beliefs about health consequences of cigarette smoking in telephone interviews with 189 young adults. Smokers and nonsmokers gave similar estimates of risk for the average smoker of the same age and sex, but differed in
estimates of their own risk of lung cancer, number of friends against smoking, proportion of smokers who would like to quit, smoking prevalence, years until others get lung cancer, and knowledge of health risks. Optimistic bias was assessed among smokers by comparing personally-relevant with population-relevant variables. Smokers evaluated themselves more positively than the average smoker of the same age and sex on number of friends against smoking, risk of lung cancer, likelihood of success in quitting, risk of emphysema, and risk of heart disease. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


Objective: To develop a scale used to measure smoking-related attitudes in Chinese secondary school students. Methods: Based on literatures published in China and abroad and suggestions by relevant specialists and teachers, we developed a self-administered scale with 16-item used to measure smoking-related attitudes in Chinese secondary school students. Factor analysis was used to assess the construct validity of the scale. The differences of the scores between trying smokers and non-smoker, and males and females were tested for assessing the discriminant validity of the scale. Cronbach's alpha for the total scale and the sub-scales was calculated for evaluating the internal consistency, and the split-half reliability test analysis was also conducted. Moreover, 112 subjects were re-investigated after two weeks of the first survey, and the difference and correlation of scores between the two surveys were tested for assessing the stability of the scale. Results: Factor analysis identified two potential components that could explain 46.2% of the total variance, and the first factor including 9 items was defined as "The opinions to tobacco and smoking-related behaviors", and the second one including 7 items was defined as "The opinions to measures for preventing and controlling smoking". The mean score of the scale in non-smokers was significantly higher than that of the trying smokers, while the mean score in females was significantly higher than that in males. The Cronbach's coefficient was 0.87 for Factor One, 0.75 for Factor Two, and 0.86 for the general scale, and the coefficient of the split-half reliability was 0.71 for Factor One, 0.59 for Factor Two, and 0.72 for the general scale. By analyzing the data of 112 students who participated in both surveys, we obtained test-retest reliability of factor I as 0.72, of factor II as 0.44 and of all items as 0.67, and all the correlation coefficients were statistically significant. There were no differences for the scores of the scale between the two surveys. Conclusion: The results indicated that the smoking-related attitude scale had reasonable validity and reliability. It could provide valuable reference for future similar surveys in China. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)


It has been frequently reported that smokers showed attentional bias toward smoking-related stimuli. The current study aimed to examine whether such bias was also present when subjects were unaware of the presented stimuli and the possible role of awareness modulation on attentional bias. With a psychophysical approach (interocular suppression), we suppressed subjects' awareness to the cigarette pictures presented to one of their eyes. The visual dot probe task was modified to increase the perceptual load and to control the physical features between two rivaling images. Twenty-eight male smokers and 25 male non-smokers participated in the experiment. We found a significant interaction between experiment conditions and subject groups, with only the smoker group showed attentional bias toward cigarette pictures in unaware condition. Moreover, smokers' attentional bias in unaware condition was negatively correlated with their scores on Cigarette Dependence Scale while their attentional bias in aware condition was positively correlated with scores on Questionnaires of Smoking Urges. Such dissociation indicates the possibility of awareness modulation on attentional bias: it is possible that in aware condition, the attentional bias was modulated by smoking urge in awareness, thus
concealed the effect of dependence degree. Further studies indicated that awareness modulated attentional bias through many factors, such as craving, quit attempt, attitude and disgust. Interestingly, non-smokers also showed attentional bias in aware condition, which further suggested that due to awareness modulation, attentional bias could even be addiction-unrelated. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2012 APA, all rights reserved)