

EMPLOYMENT STATUS A SOCIAL RISK *factor* FOR PROGRESSION FROM EXPERIMENTER TO ESTABLISHED CIGARETTE *Smoker?*

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background

Previous research suggests that there is a link between adolescent employment and smoking (Ramchand et al., 2007). Furthermore, research in adult populations has found that there is a high prevalence of smoking in the service industry, an area which employs a vast number of adolescents (Barbeau, 2004; Syamlal et al., 2015). Thus far, the research focus has mainly been on discretionary income, with the rationale being that students who work have more money to purchase cigarettes (Zhang et al., 2008). Our previous work has examined employment as a risk factor for susceptibility to smoking among nonsmokers (Carroll et al., 2013). However, this study did not examine employment status for those who were established smokers (i.e. smoking on more than 20 days of the past month). The present study examines the effects of employment and exposure to secondhand smoke in the work place on established smoking.

objective

The purpose of this project was to examine the relationship between employment status, exposure to secondhand smoke at work, and established smoking.

Participants	Unweighted N = 1715	Weighted
Sex		
Male	49.2%	50.2%
Female	50.8%	49.8%
Grade		
9th	28.0%	28.7%
10th	24.3%	26.1%
11th	29.2%	23.3%
12th	18.5%	21.9%
Race		
White	46.7%	43.1%
Black	41.6%	48.8%
Other	11.7%	8.1%

		Established Smoking	
		Yes	No
Employment status and exposure to smoke at work	Employed and exposed at work	32.1%	67.9%
	Employed, not exposed at work	19.9%	80.1%
	Not employed	5.6%	94.4%

Note: $p < .001$

	Established Smoking Odds Ratio (95% C.I.)	Level of Significance
Exposure to second-hand smoke at work		$p = .03$
Employed & exposed at work	3.4 (1.3-9.0)	
Employed, but not exposed at work	1.8 (0.5-7.2)	
Not employed	Reference	Reference
Smoking rule in home		$p = .02$
Smoking allowed	3.3 (1.2-8.7)	
Smoking not allowed	Reference	Reference
Close friends who smoke		$p = .03$
Yes	4.1 (1.2-14.3)	
No	Reference	Reference
Smoking makes you look cool or fit in		ns
Yes	1.7 (0.8-3.4)	
No	Reference	Reference
Smoker in home		ns
Yes	0.6 (0.3-1.2)	
No	Reference	Reference
Amount of spending money		ns
\$21 or more per week	1.0 (0.4-2.4)	
\$20 or less per week	Reference	Reference

Note: The model statistically controlled for sex, grade, and race.

methodology

2014 MS Youth Tobacco Survey

We applied a multi-stage sample design where the probability of public high schools being selected was proportional to enrollment size. Two to three classrooms were chosen randomly within selected schools and all students in selected classes were eligible for participation. Data were collected by means of an anonymous self-administered questionnaire. The questions were group administered in classrooms during a normal class period by teachers following standardized procedures.

results

Bivariate and multivariable analyses were used to analyze the relationship between employment status, exposure to secondhand smoke in the workplace, and established smoking. We controlled for social influences such as amount of spending money, thinking smoking makes one look cool or helps one fit in, the number of close friends who smoke, smoking rules in the home, and if someone who lives in the home smokes, as well as demographic characteristics. Results suggest that employment status is a risk factor for becoming an established smoker. Students who were exposed to smoke at work were more likely to be established smokers than those who were not. This relationship remained even after controlling for other risk factors.

discussion and future implications

Students who were exposed to secondhand smoke in their workplace were over three times more likely to be an established smoker versus those who reported that they do not work. This relationship remained after controlling for factors such as amount of spending money, rules about smoking in the home, having friends who smoke, believing that smoking makes one look cool or fit in, and having a smoker in the home. It is unknown whether vocations that allow smoking in the workplace draw students who smoke to work there or if exposure in the workplace leads to established smoking. Future research should examine the progression of experimenters to established smokers through a longitudinal design to further assess this relationship.

references

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