Psychosocial Correlates of Youth Smoking in Mississippi

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Background

• Increasing knowledge about the dangers of tobacco and reducing social influence from smokers are important objectives of youth tobacco control programs

• More recently, policy and practices that ban smoking have emerged as promising objectives

• Recent research demonstrates that smoking bans can reduce smoking
Purpose

• To assess the relationship between smoking among Mississippi high school students and:
  1. Knowledge about Cigarettes
  2. Smoking among friends and family
  3. Self-reported smoking bans

• To control for sociodemographic factors
Mississippi Youth Social Climate Survey

- Conducted by the Social Science Research Center at Mississippi State University
- Funded by The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi
- Technical Assistance from the Research Triangle Institute and the CDC’s Office of Smoking and Health
Sample Description

- Two-Stage Cluster Sample of MS Public High School Students, YTS/YRBS Sample Design

- Overall Response Rate: 62.4%
- School Response Rate: 86.7%, 39 of the 45 sampled schools participated.
- Student Response Rate: 72.0%, 2707 of the 3762 sampled students completed usable questionnaires
Sample Characteristics

- $N = 2,707$
- $30.5\%$ 9th Grade, $26.0\%$ 10th, $21.6\%$ 11th, $20.3\%$ 12th
- $52.0\%$ Female, $47.1\%$ Male
- $51.3\%$ Black, $43.5\%$ White
30 Day Smoking Prevalence
MS Public High School Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Prevalence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
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</tbody>
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Statistical Analyses

• A weighting factor was applied to each student record to adjust for non-response at the school, class, and student levels.

• Logistic regression models were conducted using SUDAAN to measure the relationship of social climate variables and current smoking
Knowledge Variables

- Has either of your parents discussed the dangers of smoking with you?
- Do you think that smoke from other people’s cigarettes is harmful to you?
- Can people get addicted to using tobacco just like they can get addicted to cocaine or heroin?
- Do you think that it is safe to smoke for a year or two as long as you quit after that?
Friends And Family

- Does anyone who lives with you now smoke cigarettes?
- During the past 7 days, how many days were you in the same room or rode in a car with someone who was smoking cigarettes?
- How many of your four closest friends smoke cigarettes?
Smoking Restrictions

- Does your household have a ban against smoking?
- In your home is smoking allowed in the presence of children?
- Does your workplace have a ban against smoking?
- Would you say that this smoking policy strictly enforced?
Risk Factors for Current Cigarette Smoking

- Logistic regression models
- DV: 30 day smoking status
- Predictor variables coded as risk factors
- Adjusted for sex, grade, & race
No Discussions of Dangers with Parents OR=1.0 (.7-1.3)
Believe that ETS is not harmful OR=3.4 (2.2-5.1)
Believe that nicotine is not addictive OR=3.5 (2.6-4.9)
Believe that it is safe to smoke for 1 or 2 years OR=2.9 (2.2-3.8)
Friends and Family

- Lives with a smoker: 58.9% Smoker, 37.9% Nonsmoker
  OR=2.5 (2.0-3.1)

- At least one close friend smokes: 91.1% Smoker, 43.9% Nonsmoker
  OR=12.3 (8.4-18.0)

- ETS exposure in private setting: 91.9% Smoker, 50.8% Nonsmoker
  OR=11.0 (8.2-14.8)
Smoking Restrictions

- Smoking allowed in the house OR=2.3 (1.7-3.0)
- Smoking allowed in the presence of children OR=2.4 (1.9-3.0)
- Smoking allowed at work OR=2.2 (1.5-3.3)
- Work smoking ban not strictly enforced OR=1.6 (1.2-2.0)
Discussion

- Knowledge of harms associated with current youth smoking
- Friends’ and Family’s smoking associated with current youth smoking
- Smoking bans associated with current youth smoking
Limitations

- Self-report of smoking bans
- No measures of smoking bans in public places
- Cross-sectional analyses can only detect associations
Future Directions

• Include measure of local smoking bans in public settings

• Monitor social climate conditions and smoking prevalence in Mississippi communities with and without smoking bans