

# GET a JOB and increase your risk OF SMOKING?

//CURRENT CIGARETTE SMOKING STATUS & EMPLOYMENT AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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## ↑BACKGROUND↑

Students who are employed are frequently more susceptible to at-risk behaviors. One risk they face is becoming a smoker (Monahan, Lee, & Steinberg, 2011). Past research has focused on intensity of work hours and the amount of discretionary income as a predictor of being at risk for smoking in high school students (Gruber & Zinman, 2001; Bachman & Schulenberg, 1993; Dun, 2005, Zhang, 2008). Less is known about other social factors associated with student employment and smoking. We know exposure to smoking by family members is a risk factor for future smoking behavior (Leonardi-Bee, Jere, & Britton, 2011). It is possible that the exposure to smoking, not just exposure by the family is what is predictive of future smoking behavior. An overwhelming majority of high school students work in the service industry (The Report on the Youth Labor Force), and there is a substantial prevalence of smoking behavior in adult, low income workers in the service industry (Barbeau, Krieger, & Soobader, 2004). We believe that because of the high prevalence of smoking at high school student's jobs it will be predictive of future smoking behavior.

## ↑OBJECTIVE↑

To determine if employment status and exposure to smoking at work relates to smoking behaviors in high school students even when controlling for social factors such as exposure to smoking at home, rules regarding smoking at home, if friends smoke, or if smoking is cool.

Current Smoker Demographics	
Participants	N = 1657
<b>Sex</b>	
Male	49.7%
Female	50.3%
<b>Race</b>	
White	42.6%
Black	51.4%
Other	6.0%
<b>Grade</b>	
9th	28.2%
10th	26.3%
11th	23.9%
12th	21.6%
<b>Employment Status</b>	
Unemployed	77.8%
Employed but Not Exposed to Smoking at Work	13.0%
Employed and Exposed to Smoking at Work	9.2%
<b>Spending Money</b>	
\$20 or Less to Spend a Week	44.1%
\$21 or More to Spend a Week	55.9%
<b>Smoking Status</b>	
Smoker	18.1%
Not a Smoker	81.9%

Bivariate Analysis	
	Current Smoker (95% C.I.)
<b>Employment Status</b>	
Unemployed	13.2% (9.9-17.3)
Employed but Not Exposed to Smoking at Work	20.5% (13.3-30.1)
Employed and Exposed to Smoking at Work	56.6% (46.3-66.5)
<b>Spending Money</b>	
\$20 or Less to Spend a Week	13.3% (9.8-18.0)
\$21 or More to Spend a Week	22.0% (17.2-27.7)
<b>Living with a Smoker</b>	
No Smoker at Home	11.3% (8.7-14.5)
Smoker at Home	30.7% (23.3-39.9)
<b>Smoking Rules at Home</b>	
Smoking is Not Allowed in Home	12.9% (10.1-16.4)
Smoking is Allowed in Home	30.3% (21.9-40.3)
<b>Close Friends Who Smoke</b>	
No Close Friends Who Smoke	3.8% (2.4-6.0)
One or More Close Friends Who Smoke	39.2% (31.7-47.2)
<b>Attitude Towards Smoking</b>	
Smoking Does Not Make People Look Cooler	11.0% (8.1-14.8)
Smoking Makes People Look Cooler	37.8% (31.0-45.1)

Multivariable Analysis*	
	*Model Controls for sex, grade, and race
	Current Smoker (95% C.I.)
<b>Employment Status</b>	
Unemployed	Reference
Employed but Not Exposed to Smoking at Work	1.6 (0.8-3.1)
Employed and Exposed to Smoking at Work	6.7 (3.9-11.5)
<b>Spending Money</b>	
\$20 or Less to Spend a Week	Reference
\$21 or More to Spend a Week	1.6 (0.9-2.9)
<b>Living with a Smoker</b>	
No Smoker at Home	Reference
Smoker at Home	3.2 (2.0-5.1)
<b>Smoking Rules at Home</b>	
Smoking is Not Allowed in Home	Reference
Smoking is Allowed in Home	1.3 (0.9-2.0)
<b>Close Friends Who Smoke</b>	
No Close Friends Who Smoke	Reference
One or More Close Friends Who Smoke	10.2 (5.0-19.0)
<b>Attitude Towards Smoking</b>	
Smoking Does Not Make People Look Cooler	Reference
Smoking Makes People Look Cooler	3.3 (2.3-5.0)

## ↑METHODOLOGY↑

**2012 Mississippi Youth Tobacco Survey**  
We applied a multi-stage sample design with public high schools selected 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 surveys were group administered in classrooms during a normal class period by teachers following standardized procedures. Bivariate and multivariable analyses were used to analyze the relationship between both employment and exposure to smoke at work on high school student's smoking status while controlling for weekly spending money, demographic characteristics, and social factors (exposure to smoking at home or with friends and attitudes about smoking).

## ↑RESULTS↑

Analyses indicated that having a job and being exposed to smoking at work were risk factors for smoking. This relationship remained even after controlling for having weekly spending money, and several social context variables. Having one or more close friend who smokes puts students at greatest risk for becoming a smoker, followed by having a job where they were exposed to smoking. Living with a smoker or having a positive attitude towards smoking were predictive of slightly higher rates of being a smoker whereas having spending money and rules did not predict smoker status.

## ↑DISCUSSION AND FUTURE IMPLICATIONS↑

Teen smoking appears to be attributable to social processes beyond simply having more discretionary income or social factors such as exposure to smoking through either friends or family. Employment and being exposed to smoking at work remain predictors of smoking behaviors in teens even when considering other commonly cited social factors such as friends or family that smoke. Future research should begin developing programs directed at teen workers, considering the high risk related to teen employment.

← [mstobaccodata.org](http://mstobaccodata.org) →

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