

Demographic Differences Between New Smokers and Non-Smokers

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Introduction

Smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. On daily basis, a near 4400 adolescents initiate smoking for the first time and about 2000 adolescents aged 12-17 become habitual smokers.

Purpose of Study

To determine whether demographic differences exists between non-smokers and new smokers (smoking at least 2 years<) aged 12 to 21.

Methods

Data Source

Data were collected from public access files from the 2001-2005 Federal Government National Surveys On Drug Abuse And Health (NSDUH). The NSDUH is currently the only study that regularly produces estimates of drug abuse of noninstitutionalized citizens within the United States.

Study Sample

The study population is new smokers aged 12 to 21 (N=78,790).

Descriptive Statistics

- 21% of adolescents smoked a cigarette (n=16,465)
- 50% of the adolescents were males
- 33% of the respondents had a total family income of \$20,000.00 - \$49,999.00.
- 15.60 is the average age of adolescents who smoked cigarettes

Inferential Statistics

Demographics	New Smokers	Statistics X2 p-value
12 years	5.36%	3403911.95 .0001
13 years	10.75%	
14 years	18.35%	
15 years	23.84%	
16 years	27.17%	
17 years	30.73%	
18 years	33.32%	
19 years	31.08%	
20 years	27.75%	
21 years	16.57%	
Male	21.06%	0.0133
Female	21.01%	0.9083
Non-Hispanic White	22.59%	260632.87 .0001
Non-Hispanic African American	16.58%	
Non-Hispanic Indian	30.37%	
Non-Hispanic Hawaiian	24.15%	
Non-Hispanic Asian	13.47%	
Non-Hispanic Multi-racial	21.19%	
Hispanic	21.61%	
< \$20,000.00	23.59%	123867.05 .0001
\$20,002.00 - \$49,999.00	21.66%	
\$50,000.00 – 74,999.00	19.64%	
\$75,000.00 >	19.07%	

Conclusions

Demographic differences exist between non-smokers and new smokers (adolescents smoking 2 years or less). Such differences are:

- As adolescents get older they are more likely to smoke.
- Non-Hispanic Indians are more likely to smoke.
- Adolescents with low family income are more likely to smoke.

* Both gender are equally susceptible to smoking cigarettes.