

Smoking by Frequency and Type of Social Contact

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Objectives: To compare smoking by frequency and type of social contact. **Methods:** Respondents aged 20 years or older from NHANES III were analyzed using multivariate logistic models (N=15,499). **Results:** Among the levels and types of social contact, frequency of church attendance was the only type of social contact associated with lower likelihood of smoking (OR=0.68, 95%

CI=0.64, 0.72). Other types of contact were either not associated or were associated with higher probabilities of smoking. **Conclusions:** Frequent church attendance appears to protect the most from smoking relative to other types of social contact.

Key words: serum cotinine, smoking, social networks, social support

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