

A New Measure of Smoking Initiation and Progression Among Adolescents

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Objective: To develop a new measure of smoking initiation and progression among adolescents.

Method: This study used data from 2504 regular and alternative high school students to evaluate the psychometric properties of a new 3-item, 5-stage measure of smoking initiation and progression. **Results:** The categorization method showed good 4-week test-retest reliability (.83 among boys and .87

among girls). The demographic distribution of adolescents into stages was consistent with previous research. **Conclusion:** This 5-stage classification method could be a useful framework for describing variation along the smoking uptake and progression continuum.

Key words: tobacco use, cigarette smoking, initiation, progression, stages

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