

Predictors of Smokeless Tobacco Initiation in a Young Adult Military Cohort

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Objective: To identify predictors of smokeless tobacco (ST) initiation among young adults. **Methods:** A military cohort (N=28,229) was analyzed to identify variables associated with ST initiation. **Results:** Baseline current cigarette smoking at baseline was a strong predictor for any ST use (OR 3.88; 95% CI: 3.33-4.52) and daily ST use (OR 3.01, 2.34-3.88) as was experimental ST use for

any (OR 2.39, 2.09-2.73) and daily ST use (OR 2.41, 1.93-3.01). **Conclusions:** Smoking and previous ST use are strong predictors for ST use in adults. Research is needed to characterize ST initiation and changes in smoking behavior over time.

Key words: tobacco, smokeless, military personnel, cohort studies, risk factors, smoking

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