

Age of Smoking Onset as a Predictor of Smoking Cessation During Pregnancy

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Objective: To assess age of smoking onset as a predictor of smoking cessation during pregnancy. **Methods:** Multivariate logistic regression analysis of cross-sectional data for 35,687 women 15-34 years old from the 2000 and 2001 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse. **Results:** Pregnant women (1805) were twice as likely to abstain as nonpregnant women (47.7% vs 23.3%). Initiation of smoking at ≥ 15 years old was associated with

increased likelihood of 30-day abstinence during pregnancy (OR=1.75) after adjusting for confounders. **Conclusions:** The earlier a woman starts smoking, the more likely it is that she will smoke during pregnancy, underscoring the need for early prevention to protect mothers and the fetuses.

Key words: smoking initiation, pregnant women, smoking cessation

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