

Social Influences on Cigarette Initiation Among College Students

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Objectives: To examine the relationship of demographic and social influence with initiation of cigarette use among undergraduates.

Methods: Students were mailed anonymous surveys including 437 participants who indicated that they had not smoked cigarettes before age 18. Of those, 107 became late initiators (24%), and 330 remained never smokers (76%).

Results: Those who drank alcohol

in college and had at least 1 parent with a college education were more likely to initiate smoking than were those who did not drink and neither parent had attended college.

Conclusions: Strategies that focus on reducing alcohol and tobacco use need to be tested.

Key words: cigarette initiation, college students, social influences, prevention

Am J Health Behav. 2007;31(4):353-362
