

The Prevalence of Unrecognized Tobacco Use Among Young Adults

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Objective: To evaluate the prevalence of smoking among young adults and to describe their characteristics. **Methods:** Data were examined from the Minnesota Adult Tobacco Survey, a telephone survey of 8821 residents with a sample of 1205 young adults. **Results:** Prevalence was 39% using the adolescent definition and 32% using the adult definition. Nearly 1 in 5 young adult smokers may be con-

sidered a “previously unrecognized smoker” who would not have been identified as a cigarette user according to the standard adult definition. **Conclusions:** Future studies assessing prevalence should use both adolescent and adult measures.

Key words: tobacco, smoking, prevalence, survey methods, young adults

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