

Factors Associated with COVID-19 Related Quit Attempts among Adults who Smoke in Vietnam

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Background

Smoking has been associated with increased susceptibility to severe COVID-19 related outcomes, which could increase motivation to quit. We examined the relationship between COVID-19 related quit attempts and key demographic characteristics and nicotine dependence level to understand what factors may contribute to pandemic-related quit-readiness in Vietnam.

Methods

- Data were collected from Feb to May 2022 from a phone survey of 1,494 Vietnamese adults who currently smoke.
- Participants were equally distributed by nicotine dependence (low, medium, high) and region of Vietnam (north, central, south).
- Two main outcomes: (1) whether health concerns related to COVID-19 (yes/no) and (2) financial concerns related to COVID-19 (yes/no) were a reason why a participant attempted to quit smoking in the past 12 months.
- We ran two separate adjusted logistic regressions to assess the relationship between each outcome and demographic variables (gender, age, income) and nicotine dependence level.

COVID-19 related financial concerns play a role in reasons for quitting among low-income and female Vietnamese adults who smoke.



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Results

	% (n)
Attempted to quit smoking in past 12 months	42% (627)
Among those who made a quit attempt:	
Quit due to COVID-19 related health concerns	44.8% (281)
Quit due to COVID-19 related financial concerns	29.8% (187)

- Females (OR=2.52, 95%CI:1.41-4.51) and low-income individuals (OR=1.79, 95%CI:1.12-2.85) had significantly higher odds of indicating COVID-19 financial concerns was a reason to quit compared to males and high-income individuals, respectively.
- COVID-19 health-related reasons for quitting were not significantly associated with demographic variables or nicotine dependence.

Conclusion

Results highlight opportunities to increase information available on the risks related to smoking during a respiratory illness-based pandemic to enhance quit attempts.

Authors

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