

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

Background

Cigarette smoking rates in Vietnam are high, especially among men. Smoking is 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 better understand what factors might contribute to pandemic-related quit-readiness.

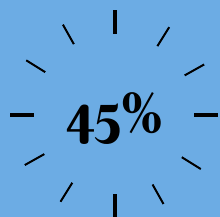
Methods

Data were from a phone survey of 1500 Vietnamese adults who currently smoke, equally distributed by nicotine dependence (low, medium, high). We modeled the odds of quitting by demographic variables (gender, age, and income) and nicotine dependence.

Our two main outcomes were whether (1) 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

COVID-19 Related Health Concerns

Participants who made a past-year quit attempt indicated health-related COVID-19 concerns (44.8%) as a reason to quit.



Gender, age, income, and nicotine dependence level were not significantly associated with COVID-19 health-related reasons for quitting.

COVID-19 Related Financial Concerns

29.8% of participants who made a past-year quit attempt indicated financial-related COVID-19 concerns as a reason to quit.

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 as a reason to quit (compared to males and high-income individuals, respectively).

Key Takeaways

Findings suggest COVID-19 related concerns play a role in reasons for quitting among certain groups. Results highlight opportunities to increase information available on both the health and financial risks related to smoking during a respiratory illness-based pandemic to enhance quit attempts, particularly for low-income and female Vietnamese adults who smoke.