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Literature Abstract

Association of smokeless tobacco use and smoking in adolescents in the United States: An analysis of data from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System survey, 2011

The study investigated patterns of use of smokeless and smoking tobacco among a representative cross section of adolescents in the United States. Cigarette usage is in decline and smokeless tobacco has been marketed for use in smoke-free places and as part of a harm reduction strategy or alternative to smoking. Its use has been linked to oral diseases, including cancer, soft-tissue lesions, periodontal disease, and caries. It comes in many forms that can be placed under the lip, chewed, or dissolved. The aim of the study was to determine if adolescent smokers are also more likely to use smokeless tobacco than nonsmokers. The sample was taken from a previous study survey sent to school students in grades 9 to 12, from those respondents who answered questions on tobacco use, and numbered 9,655. Direct questions on use of tobacco products were asked. Sex, race, ethnicity, and education were determined. Lifestyle variables such as playing on a sports team, body mass index, and soda use were queried. Risk-taking behaviors such as binge drinking, marijuana use, having sexual intercourse, and riding in a vehicle with a driver who had been drinking were assessed. Multivariable analysis showed that smokeless tobacco users were more likely to be nonHispanic white, overweight, and male, to ride with a driver who has been drinking and to have engaged in binge drinking and sexual intercourse. There was a prevalence of 16.8% of smokers and 3.92% for dual tobacco use. The author concluded that there is a strong association between using smokeless tobacco products and smoking and users were also more likely to engage in certain risk-taking behaviors. As health care providers, this data can help target adolescents who match a pattern of behavior and who may also use tobacco in its different forms.

Wiener RC. *J Am Dent Assoc* 2013;144:930–938. **References:** 26. **Reprints:** Department of Dental Practice and Rural Health, School of Dentistry, West Virginia University, 104A Health Sciences Center Addition, PO Box 9448, Morgantown, WV 26506, USA. **Email:** rwiener2@hsc.wvu.edu —Steven Soo, Singapore

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