Cigarette Usage Habits Amongst MSU Students

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April 12, 2012
Introduction

As many of you know already, cigarette usage is a highly debated subject throughout the United States. Especially regarding the question, “Do you believe that smoking should be outlawed in ALL public enclosed areas?” At Minot State University, it is prohibited to smoke cigarettes anywhere on campus grounds. In our study we took a survey of 120 people to develop a better understanding of how many Minot State University students use or have experienced the usage of cigarettes and what their opinion is to the question stated above. The purpose of this study was to determine if there is any distinct correlation between how social and demographic factors such as gender, age, relationship status, and year of study affect Minot State University students’ cigarette usage habits. In our study, cigarette usage habits are viewed as any usage or occasional usage of cigarettes. Our expectations for these factors are as follows: the percentage of males who smoke cigarettes will be higher than the percentage of females; participants who are older in age and year of study will have a lower number of cigarette usage habits; participants who are either in a relationship or married will have a lower number of cigarette usage habits; and participants who have children will have a lower number of cigarette usage habits. We also hypothesized that smokers would have a higher tendency to answer “no” to the question, “Do you believe that smoking should be outlawed in ALL public enclosed areas?”, in comparison to non-smokers. By collecting all of our data, we were able to see how Minot State University students’ cigarette usage habits differentiated between the participants’ demographic factors that we collected in our survey.

Methods
**Goal**

Our goal of this study was to try to determine if there is any relationship between the various demographics of our participants, and the questions regarding smoking habits amongst Minot State University Students.

**Participants**

The population of our study was all Minot State University students. The participants that took part in our study were 120 MSU students in various classes that were chosen by us, making it a convenience sample. We tried to diversify our sample by selecting different class types. We received a diverse sample by surveying classes such as Dr. Geller’s MATH240, Dr. Jastrembski’s SS28, Dr. Beachy’s BIOL?, and Professor Hanson’s BADM301. This was an anonymous and voluntary survey; so no one was required to participate, but most students were very helpful and completed the survey for our project.

**Data Collection**

We collected our data using a simple survey that consisted of a set of various demographic questions such as gender, age, relationship status, year of study, and if the participants have any children or not. After our participants answered the set of demographic questions, our survey then led them to a set of questions regarding cigarette usage habits. Whether or not the participant answered yes or no if he/she is a smoker or an occasional smoker, this determined what questions he/she would then have to answer throughout our survey. If the participant answered “yes” to either of these two questions, they were then directed to question #9 which asked the smoking participants, “How many cigarettes do you smoke per week?” If the participants answered “no” to either of these two questions, they were then directed to questions #10 and #11 which asked the non-smoking participants, “Have you ever been a smoker?” and/or
“Have you ever tried smoking cigarettes?” All participants, smoking and non-smoking were asked the question, “Do you believe that smoking should be outlawed in ALL public enclosed areas?”

We collected our data by handing out our survey to Dr. Geller’s MATH240, Dr. Jastrembski’s SS283, Dr. Beachy’s BIOL151, and Professor Hanson’s BADM301 classes. We wanted to get a good amount of variety regarding the demographic questions on the survey so we could then compare the diverse data to the questions regarding smoking habits amongst Minot State University students. We ended up succeeding in our efforts to get a pretty diverse group of Minot State University students. This really helped us get a good idea of some correlation trends. The survey is included in the Appendix.

Results

After we collected all of our data, we inserted it into a Minitab spreadsheet so we could then great different forms of graphs and chart throughout this program. The ages of our sample population ranged from a minimum age of 18 to a maximum age of 38. We also asked our participants what their year of study was at MSU. Our results from this particular question yielded 40 Freshman, 38 Sophomores, 18 Juniors, 21 Seniors, and 3 participants answered that they were “other”. We also wanted to see whether one’s certain relationship status would show any relationship to cigarette usage habits. The results from this question in our survey yielded 52 were single, 54 were in a relationship, 13 were married, and 1 was divorced.

Figure 1 shows two pie charts of the number of males and females who answered either yes or no to the question, “Do you smoke cigarettes or do you occasionally smoke cigarettes?” Both 6.67% of females and males consider themselves as smokers. 10.6% of females and 17.7%
of males answered that they occasionally smoke cigarettes but they do not consider themselves as smokers. 82.6% of females and 75.5% of males answered that they do not smoke cigarettes.

**Figure 1**

**Panel variable: Gender**

**Figure 2** shows us whether being a smoker, occasional smoker, or nonsmoker, affected the results to the question in our survey, “Do you believe that smoking should be outlawed in ALL public enclosed areas?” 80.2% of nonsmokers, 68.7% of occasional smokers, and 12.5% of smokers answered “Yes” to this question. 19.8% of nonsmokers, 31.2% of occasional smokers, and 87.5% of smokers answered “No” to this question. These results showed that an increase in smoking habits resulted in an increased willingness to all
Figure 3 splits up our participants into two designated groups. 24 years and younger, and 25 years and older. A typical college student is most likely done with their studies by the age of 24 so that’s where we drew the line. We wanted to see if the 24 and younger students’ answers differed from those of 25 and older. 60% of the 24 and younger students answered that they have never tried smoking and the remaining 40% answered that they have tried smoking. 27% of the 25 and older students answered that they have never tried smoking and the other 73% answered that they have tried smoking.

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