

*Relationship between Cigarette Purchasing Patterns, Readiness to Quit, and Quit Attempts among Homeless Smokers*

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*Background:* An alarming 73% of homeless adults reporting current smoking, although most report wanting to quit. Cigarette purchasing patterns may be linked with greater readiness to make a quit attempt and more quit attempts among domiciled samples but little is known about the cigarette purchasing patterns of homeless smokers and relations to quitting motivations and behaviors. This study redressed this gap among a convenience sample of homeless adult smokers from a large shelter in Dallas, Texas.

*Methods:* Participants ( $N=207$ ;  $M_{age}=43$ ; 71.5% male) smoked  $\geq 100$  cigarettes over the lifetime and endorsed current daily smoking. They self-reported their cigarette dependence (time to first cigarette of the day), monthly income, the quantity of cigarettes they most recently purchased (less than a pack, a pack, more than a pack), the average money they spend on cigarettes weekly, their motivation to quit smoking on the Readiness to Quit Ladder, and the number of times they made an intentional quit attempt lasting  $\geq 24$  hours in the past year and over their lifetime. Regressions were used to examine associations of cigarette purchasing patterns with readiness to quit and quit attempts controlling for sex, age, cigarette dependence, and income.

*Results:* Most participants purchased cigarettes by the pack (61.4%), followed by quantities that were less than a pack (23.7%). More than half the sample spent  $\leq \$20$  on cigarettes per week. The average readiness to quit was 5.8/10. On average, participants endorsed 2.7 past-year quit attempts and 4.9 lifetime quit attempts. Results indicated that purchasing fewer cigarettes was associated with more lifetime quit attempts ( $p=.042$ ). Spending less money on cigarettes was associated with greater readiness to quit ( $p=.016$ ) and marginally associated with more past-year quit attempts ( $p=.085$ ).

*Conclusions:* Homeless smokers who spend little money on cigarettes and purchase small quantities of cigarettes may make particularly apt targets for cessation interventions.

Abstract word count: 300