

## Background

There are myriad barriers to equality, including health equality, for persons with disabilities [1]. Young adults with long-lasting health conditions, impairments or disabilities (LHC) face pervasive social and material hardship [2]. Smoking is a leading cause of morbidity and premature death, contributing substantially to inequalities [3,4] yet little is known about smoking and even less about e-cigarette-use in this population. We report on smoking and e-cigarette use in Irish 20-year-olds reporting LHC.

## Methods

We use data from Wave 4 of Growing Up in Ireland Cohort '98, n=5,190, when participants were 20 years old [5]. Ever and current smoking and e-cigarette use were measured by whether participants responded yes to "ever" used and yes to "occasional" or "daily" use. Chronic health conditions were measured by whether respondents answered yes or no to having one or more of a number of named, long-lasting health conditions or difficulties.

## References

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# Prevalence of chronic health conditions among young adults living in Ireland and associations with smoking and e-cigarette-use

Joan Hanafin, Salome Sunday, Luke Clancy  
TobaccoFree Research Institute Ireland, TU Dublin

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Table 1. Number of long-lasting conditions or difficulties of young adults (20-year-olds)

Do you have any of the following long-lasting conditions or difficulties? (Yes/No to 1 or more)	N (%)
No conditions	4038 (77.8)
1 Condition	793 (15.3)
2 Conditions	247 (4.8)
3 or more conditions	111 (2.1)
Total	5189 (100.0)

Table 2. Type of long-lasting conditions or difficulties of young adults

Do you have any of the following long-lasting conditions or difficulties? (Yes/No)	Yes N (%)	No N (%)	Total
Blindness or serious vision impairment	97 (1.9)	5092 (98.1)	5189 (100.0)
Deafness or a serious hearing impairment	49 (1.0)	5140 (99.0)	5189 (100.0)
Mobility	94 (1.8)	5096 (98.2)	5190 (100.0)
Intellectual	230 (4.4)	4960 (95.6)	5190 (100.0)
Learning	543 (10.5)	4647 (89.5)	5190 (100.0)
Psychological or emotional	365 (7.0)	4822 (92.9)	5187 (100.0)
Pain	297 (5.7)	4892 (94.3)	5189 (100.0)

Table 3. Smoking and e-cigarette use among young adults with and without long-lasting conditions or difficulties

	Number of long-lasting conditions or difficulties			P-value
	No Condition	At least 1 condition	Total	
Smoking/E-cigarette Use	4038 (77.8)	1151 (22.2)	5189 (100.0)	
Ever-Smoked (Wave 4)				
No	1018 (25.3)	326 (28.9)	1344 (26.1)	
Yes	3004 (74.7)	803 (71.1)	3807 (73.9)	0.02
Current Smoking (Wave 4)				
No	2565 (63.5)	679 (59.0)	3244 (62.5)	
Yes	1474 (36.5)	472 (41.0)	1946 (37.5)	0.01
Ever used e-cigarettes (Wave 4)				
No	2127 (52.9)	564 (50.0)	2691 (52.2)	
Yes	1896 (47.1)	564 (50.0)	2460 (47.8)	0.09
Current e-cigarette use (Wave 4)				
No	3528 (87.4)	972 (84.4)	4500 (86.7)	
Yes	511 (12.6)	179 (15.6)	690 (13.3)	0.01

## Conclusions

Smoking and e-cigarette use is significantly higher in 20-year-olds with LHC, adding further inequality to the lives of these rarely-surveyed young adults. Targeted surveys and interventions are required.

## Results

Seven long-lasting conditions were identified – blindness or serious vision impairment; deafness or serious hearing impairment; difficulty with basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, etc; intellectual disability; difficulty with learning, remembering or concentrating; psychological or emotional condition; difficulty with pain or breathing or any other chronic illness or condition. Overall, 22.2% (n=1151) of 20-year-olds reported having one or more LHC. 15.3% (n=793) reported one condition only while 2.1% of respondents (n=111) reported having 3 or more conditions (Table 1).

Of these, the most frequently reported difficulties (Table 2) were learning (10.5%, n=543), psychological/emotional (7.0%, n=365) and pain (5.7%, n=297). Young adults with LHC had significantly higher prevalence of current smoking (41.0 vs 36.5%) and current e-cigarette use (15.6% vs 12.6%) (Table 3). They were also more likely to have ever-used e-cigarettes (NS) but significantly less likely to have ever-smoked.

## Disclosures

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- **Corresponding Author:** Professor Joan Hanafin  
• <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8016-2266>  
• [E: jhanafin@tri.ie](mailto:jhanafin@tri.ie)