



Trends in Youth Smoking in Ireland and Analysis of Factors Associated with Youth Smoking

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Objectives

The study examines trends in smoking among Irish youths of 15-16 years old and the factors associated with their smoking behaviours.



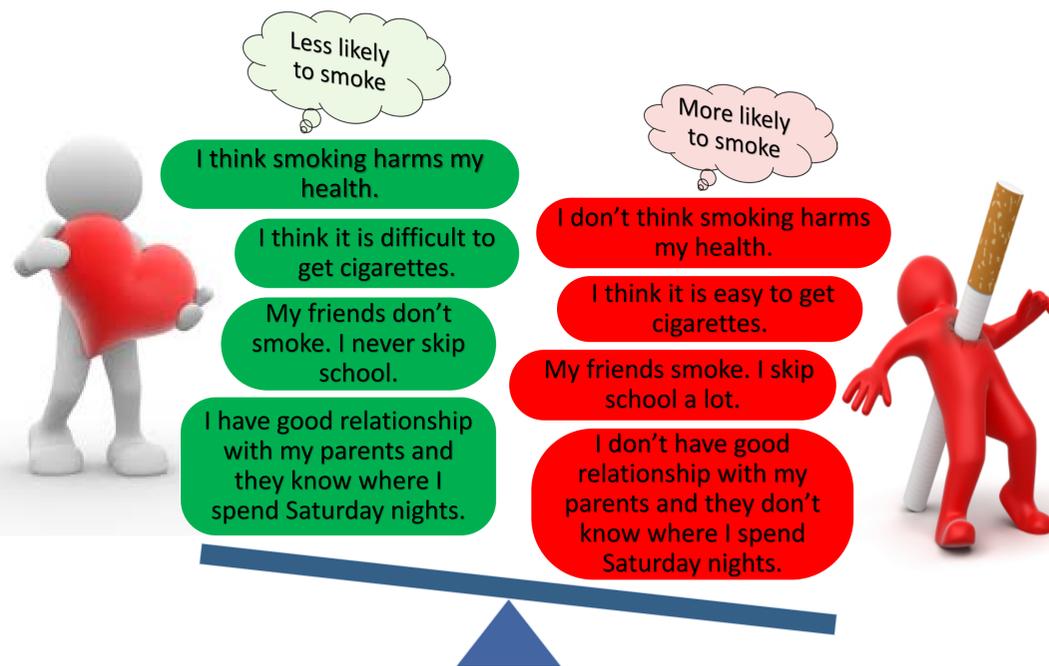
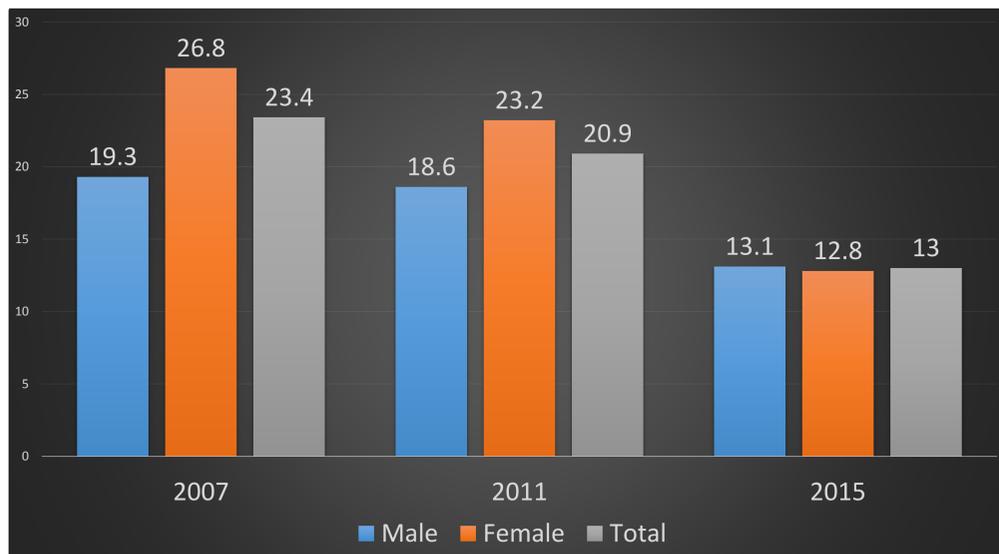
Methods

Data were obtained from the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD) Ireland 2007, 2011 and 2015. To examine the decline in overall smoking prevalence, a one-way ANOVA test was conducted and Chi-square analyses were used to test the gender gap. The main analysis examined the factors associated with youths' smoking behaviours across the three survey waves using multivariate logistic regression.

Results (Continued)

Female students were more likely to smoke. Skipping school, friends who smoke, lower levels of parental monitoring, and dissatisfaction with mother's relationship are associated with a higher likelihood of smoking. Students who perceive more risk from smoking and more difficulty in accessing cigarettes are less likely to smoke. For female students, those from one-parent family are more likely to smoke. Male but not female students who perceived their families to be "better off" were, less likely to smoke than the average families.

Figure 1 30-day Smoking Prevalence (%)



Results

30-day smoking prevalence (Figure 1) declined significantly between 2007 and 2015, with smoking rates among girls (from 26.8% to 12.8%) reducing more steeply than boys (from 19.3% to 13.1%), thus closing the gender gap.

Discussion

Ireland has successfully achieved a considerable decrease in youth smoking from 2007 to 2015. Youth smoking could be further reduced through strengthening enforcement on youth access to cigarettes and maintaining a high-intensity tobacco control media campaign targeting youth to raise awareness of smoking risks. Parent could contribute by enhancing monitoring of offspring.

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