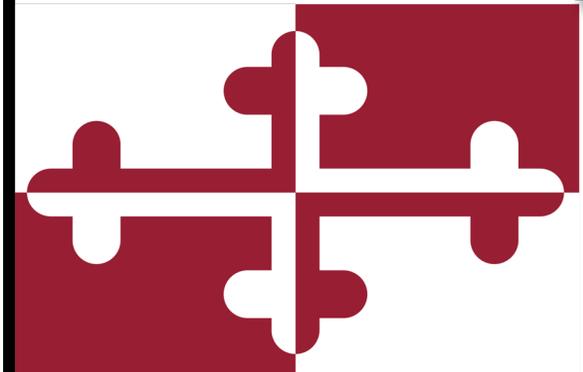
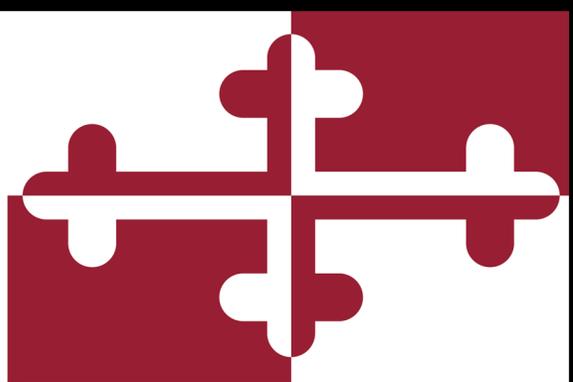




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Teen smoking is a challenge to Ireland's Tobacco Free Endgame

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Introduction

Smoking decreased among Irish 16-year-olds in each of six ESPAD survey waves from. In 2019 teen smoking increased for the first time in 28 years to 14.4%.

This increase means that the strategy of a Tobacco Free Ireland which demands that the prevalence of tobacco smoking in Ireland be less than 5% by may not be achievable in this group.

Objectives

- To examine the factors associated with recent increased smoking in Irish teens
- To offer an explanation for the rise and advice on prevention.

Methods and Materials

Data

- The ESPAD survey is a cross-sectional survey conducted every four years in 35 European countries with the aim of collecting comparable data on substance use among students aged 15–16 years in Europe.

Sample

- A total of 3,421 16-year-old students surveyed in the Irish arms of ESPAD, comprising 1,493 students in 2015 and 1,949 students in 2019.

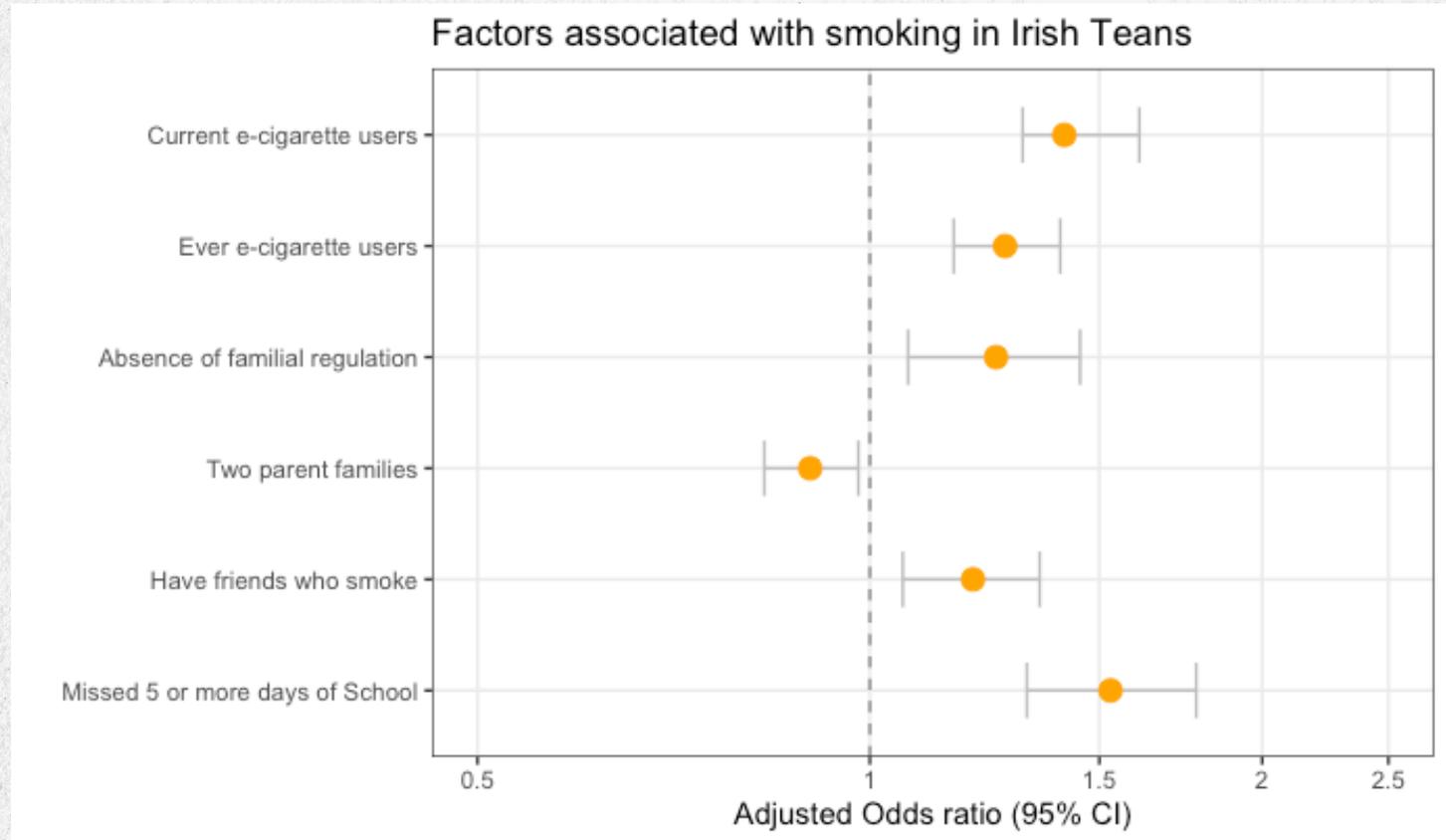
Analysis

- Adjusted poisson regression models were used to examine the prevalence and factors associated with current smoking. A p value of <0.05 was used to detect statistical significance.

Results

The risks of current smoking were significantly associated with

- E-cigarette use
- Familial regulation
- Truancy
- Peer smoking
- Two parent families



Conclusions

- ✓ We confirmed that smoking was significantly associated with familial regulation, peer smoking, truancy, and household composition.
- ✓ None of these factors changed between 2015 and 2019. E-cigarette use increased between the two waves and was associated with increased smoking.
- ✓ Our findings highlight the negative impact of e-cigarette use on teenage smoking and the need to address this in ongoing policy and legislative initiatives to achieve the Tobacco Free Ireland's policy target.



What this study adds

- ✓ The increase in adolescent smoking recorded between 2015 and 2019 was associated with an increase in e-cigarette use,
- ✓ This was the only factor significantly associated with smoking that changed between the 2015 and 2019 ESPAD waves.

Resources

- Sunday S, Keogan S, Hanafin J, Clancy L (2020). ESPAD 2019 Ireland: Results from the European Schools Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs in Ireland. Dublin: TFRI. ISBN: 978-0-9557528-4-1 (www.tri.ie)
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