

Does Access to Money from Parents Predict Smoking and E-Cigarette Use Among Teenagers?

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Background

- Strong links between smoking and financial hardship.
- Globally, the burden of death and disability caused by tobacco use continues to fall disproportionately on people experiencing poverty, accounting for a significant proportion of socioeconomic health disparities in many countries¹.
- However, there are also established associations between teenager access to money (pocket money, part-time work) associated with higher prevalence of smoking.
- Also, within families, there are established associations between smoking and e-cigarette use by teenagers and their parents' smoking status², suggesting that *habitus*³ may be more influential.



Objectives



In this study, we examine whether teenage smoking and e-cigarette use are associated with access to money via familial financial capital³, measured by reported familial wealth, ease of borrowing money from parents, and ease of receiving money as a gift from parents.



European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs

ESPAD Ireland

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ESPAD Ireland 2024

(European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs)

ESPAD is a nationally representative, cross-sectional survey conducted every four years in up to 40 European countries with the aim of collecting comparable data on substance use among students aged 15–16 years in Europe to monitor trends within and between countries.

A nationally representative stratified random sample of $n=1,880$ 15–16-year-olds (born in 2008).

Analyses were carried out using SPSS v27.

Methods

Measures



Respondents were asked if they had **ever smoked or used e-cigarettes** ("ever use") and, if yes, whether they had done so in the previous 30 days ("current use").



Reported relative wealth was measured by respondents' answers to the question: "**How well off is your family compared to other families in your country?**" with seven response categories ("very much better off" to "very much less well off").



Access to familial financial resources was measured by responses to: "How often do the following statements apply to you? **I can easily borrow money/get money as a gift from my mother and/or father**", with five response categories ("almost always" to "almost never").



Results

Current Smoking and Current E-cigarette Use

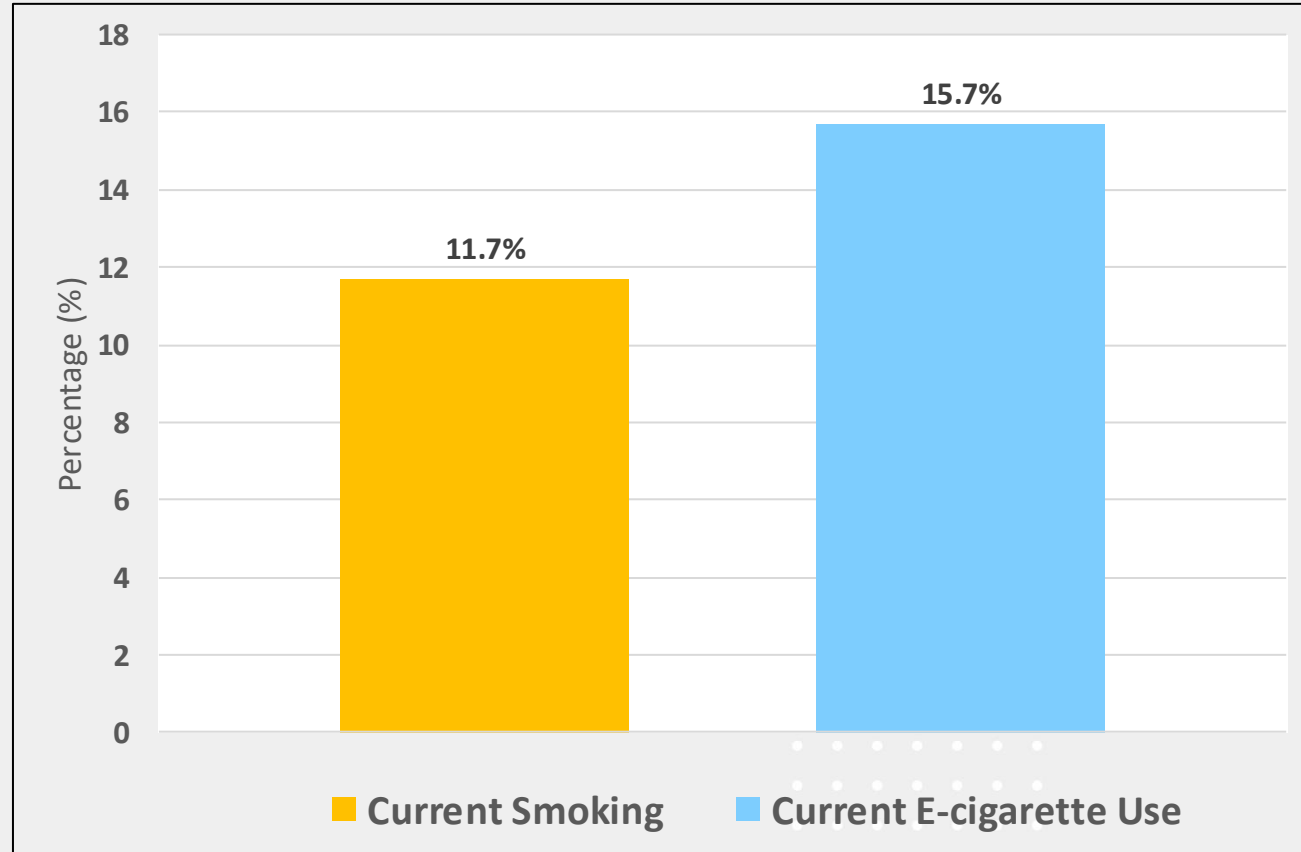
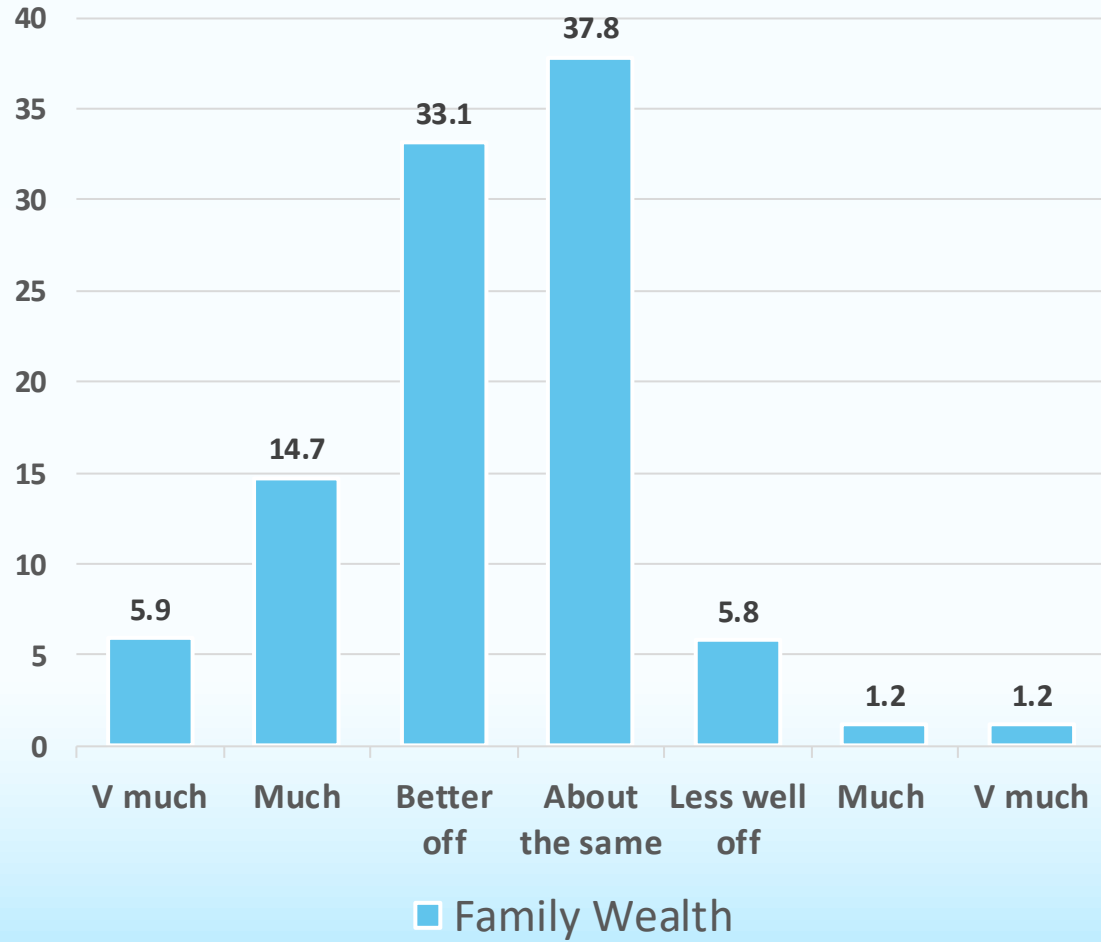


Figure 1: Prevalence of Current Smoking and E-Cigarette Use (15-16 year olds)



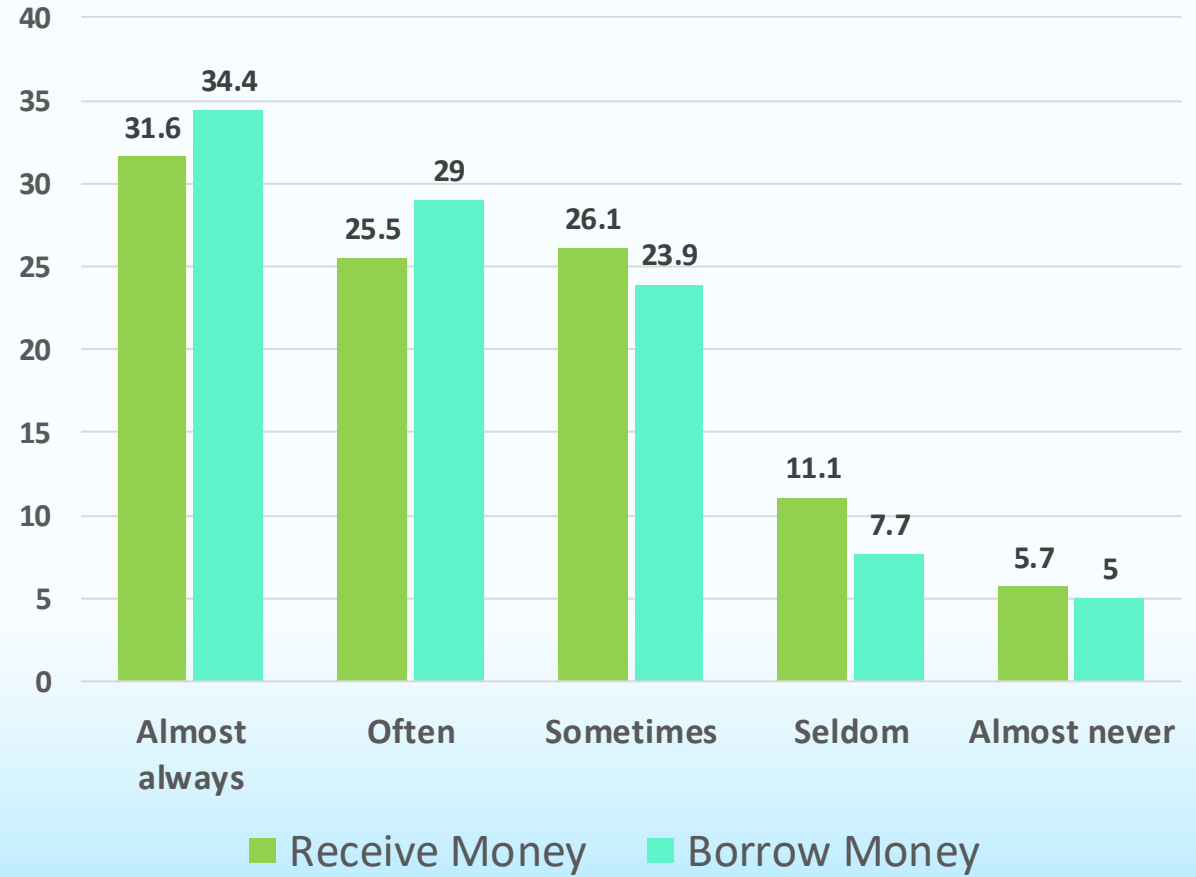
Perceived Relative Family Wealth

%



Ease of Receiving Money as a Gift and Ease of Borrowing Money from Mother/Father

%



Results Perceived Family Relative Wealth and Student Smoking/E-Cigarette Use

70.9% of respondents reported that their family was “about the same” (37.8%) or “better off” (33.1%) than others.

However, the minority who reported that their families were “less well off” (5.8%), “much less well off” (1.2%), or “very much less well off” (1.2%) were significantly more likely to be both ever and current smokers (more than twice as likely), and also significantly more likely to be both ever and current e-cigarette users.

Anomalously, those who reported being the most well off (5.9%) were also more likely to be current smokers (16.2% vs 11.5% sample) and e-cigarette users (20% vs 15.8% sample).



Fig 1 Family Wealth and Ever/Current Smoking

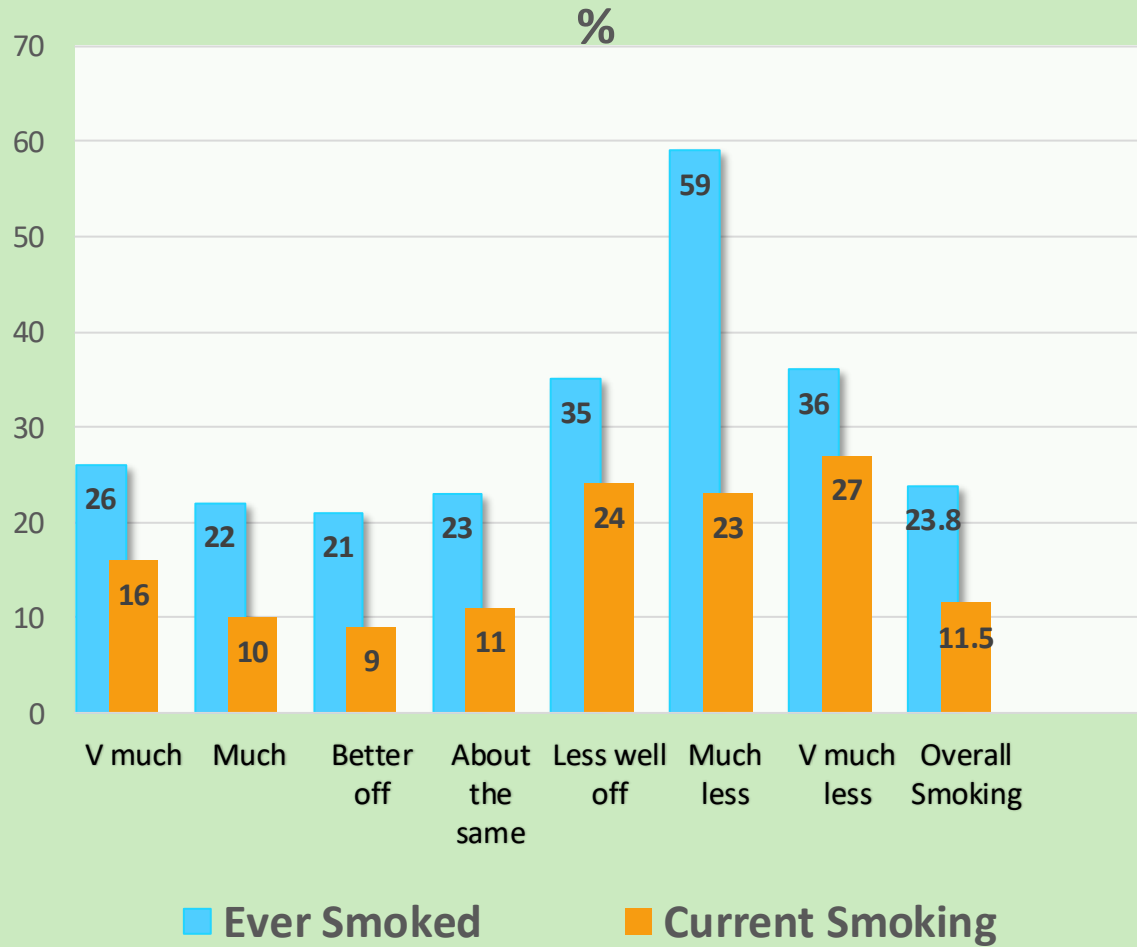
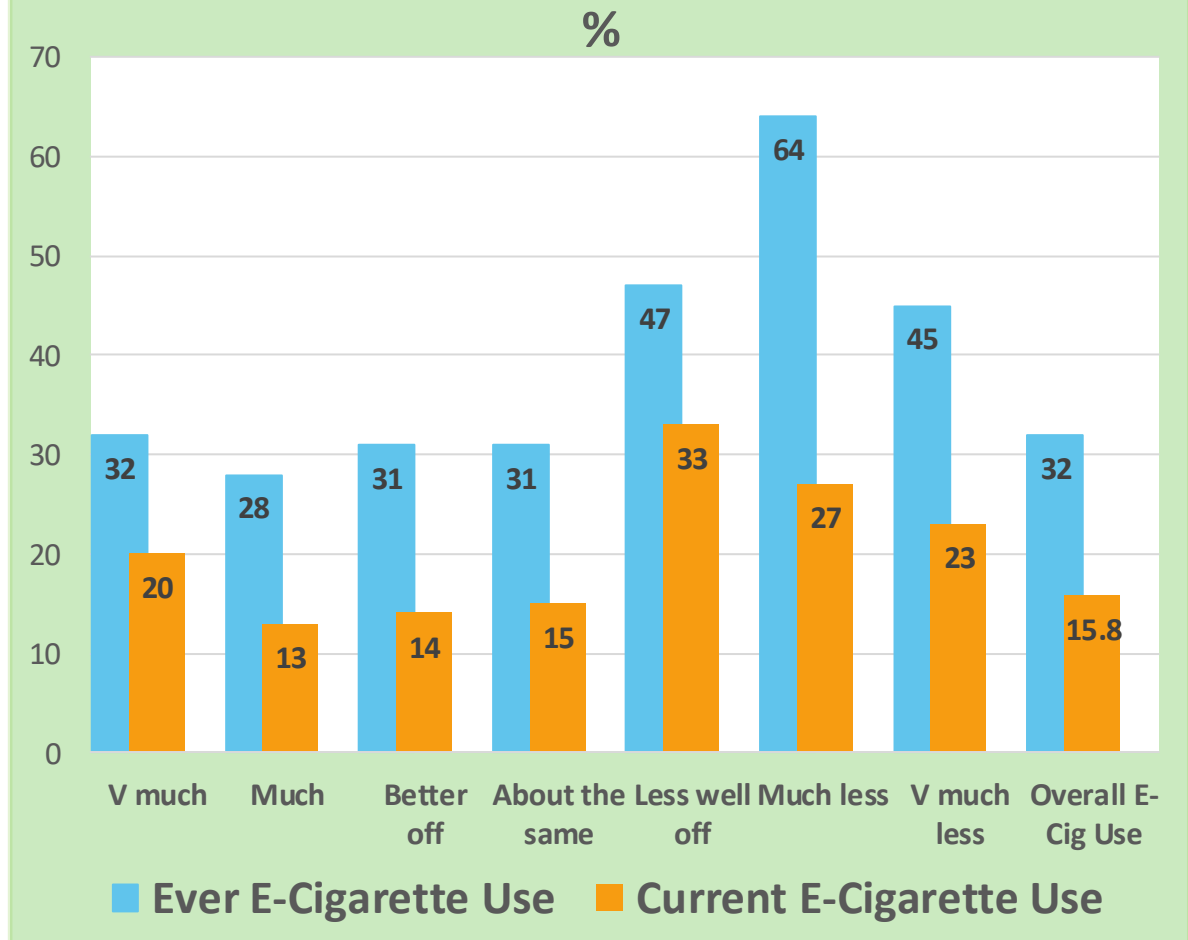


Fig 2 Family Wealth and Ever/Current E-Cigarette Use



How well off is your family compared to other families in your country?



**Ease of access
to money
from parents**

**through giving
or gifting**

Results

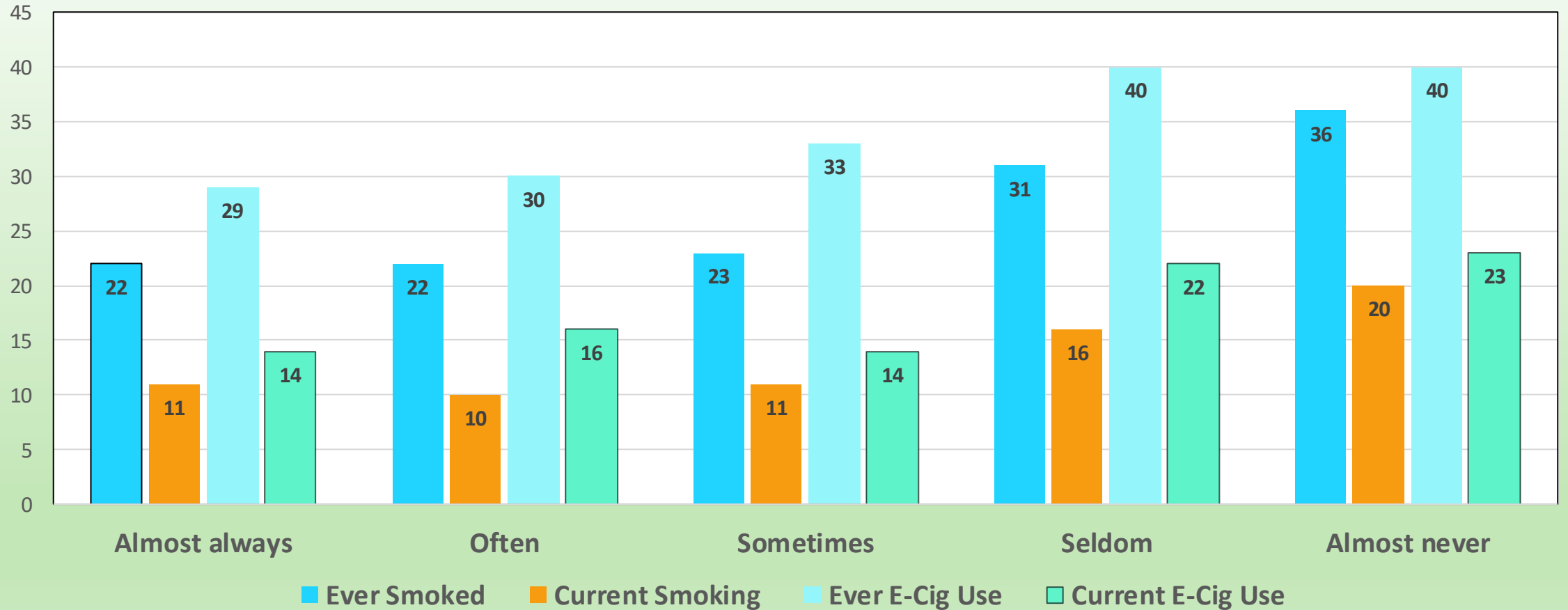
Ease of Borrowing or Receiving Money as a Gift from Parent(s) and Student Smoking and E-Cigarette Use

A majority of respondents said they could “almost always” or “often” get money from their parents either as a gift (57.1%) or through borrowing (63.4%).

Compared with those who could “almost always” or “often” borrow or receive money from parents, those who reported that they could “seldom” or “almost never” borrow (11.1%, 5.7%) or receive (11.2%, 5.7%) money as a gift from parents were significantly more likely to be ever and current smokers and e-cigarette users.

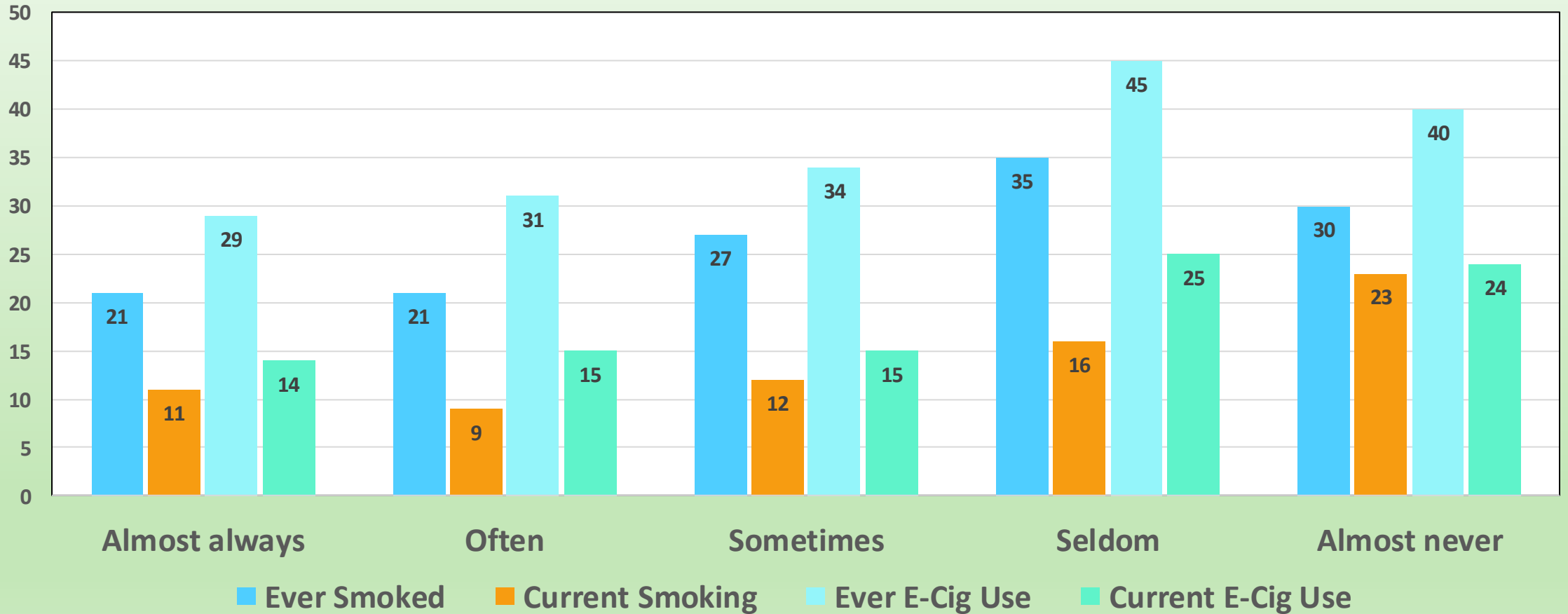


Ease of Receiving Money from Parents (as a gift) and Ever/Current Smoking/E-Cigarette Use %



How often do the following statements apply to you? I can easily get money as a gift from my mother and/or father?

Ease of Borrowing Money from Parents and Ever/Current Smoking/E-Cigarette Use %



How often do the following statements apply to you? I can easily borrow money from my mother and/or father?

Results

Ease of Receiving Money as a Gift from Parent(s)

(Q. C54. How often do the following statements apply to you? I can easily get money as a gift from my mother and/or father)

Smoking Status	Ease of Receiving Money from Parent(s), p=0.04					
	Total	Almost always	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Almost never
Never	1347 (76.2)	439 (78.5)	350 (77.8)	357 (77.4)	137 (69.5)	64 (64.0)
Ever	420 (23.8)	120 (21.5)	100 (22.2)	104 (22.6)	60 (30.5)	36 (36.0)
Current (last 30 days)	204 (11.5)	59 (10.6)	43 (9.6)	50 (10.8)	32 (16.2)	20 (20.0)
Total	1767 (100)	559 (31.6)	450 (25.5)	461 (26.1)	197 (11.1)	100 (5.7)

Table 3 : Associations between smoking and parental gifting of money

(Q. C54. How often do the following statements apply to you? I can easily get money as a gift from my mother and/or father)

E-cigarette Use	Ease of Receiving Money from Parent(s), p=0.01					
	Total	Almost always	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Almost never
Never	1192 (67.5)	393 (70.6)	313 (69.6)	307 (66.6)	119 (60.4)	60 (60.0)
Ever	573 (32.5)	164 (29.4)	137 (30.4)	154 (33.4)	78 (39.6)	40 (40.0)
Current (last 30 days)	280 (15.9)	80 (14.4)	71 (15.8)	63 (13.7)	43 (21.8)	23 (23.0)
Total	1765 (100.0)	557 (31.6)	450 (25.5)	461 (26.1)	197 (11.2)	100 (5.7)

Table 4 : Associations between e-cigarette use and parental gifting of money



Results

Ease of Borrowing Money from Parent(s)

(Q. C54. How often do the following statements apply to you? I can easily borrow money from my mother and/or father)

Smoking Status	Ease of Borrowing Money from Parent(s), p<0.001					
	Total	Almost always	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Almost never
Never	1348 (76.2)	483 (79.3)	404 (78.8)	310 (73.5)	89 (65.0)	62 (70.5)
Ever	421 (23.8)	126 (20.7)	109 (21.2)	112 (26.5)	48 (35.0)	26 (29.5)
Current (last 30 days)	204 (11.5)	64 (10.5)	46 (9.0)	52 (12.3)	22 (16.1)	20 (22.7)
Total	1769 (100)	609 (34.4)	513 (29.0)	422 (23.9)	137 (7.7)	88 (5.0)

Table 5 : Associations between smoking and ease of borrowing money

(Q. C54. How often do the following statements apply to you? I can easily borrow money from my mother and/or father)

E-cigarette Use	Ease of Borrowing Money from Parent(s), p=0.03					
	Total	Almost always	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Almost never
Never	1193 (67.5)	434 (71.5)	352 (68.8)	278 (65.7)	76 (55.5)	53 (60.2)
Ever	574 (32.5)	173 (28.5)	160 (31.2)	145 (34.3)	61 (44.5)	35 (39.8)
Current (last 30 days)	280 (15.8)	85 (14.0)	75 (14.6)	65 (15.4)	34 (24.8)	21 (23.9)
Total	1767 (100.0)	607 (34.4)	512 (29.0)	423 (23.9)	137 (7.8)	88 (5.0)

Table 6 : Associations between e-cigarette use and ease of borrowing money



Conclusions

Overall, we find that access to familial financial resources is negatively associated with both smoking and e-cigarette use, with higher prevalence among teenagers who report that their families are poorer.

Additionally, we observe higher prevalence among those who report being less able to borrow money or receive financial gifts from their parents.



Conclusions

Our findings provide further evidence² that, rather than financial access alone, the concept of *habitus*³ - an individual's dispositions, beliefs, values, and habits, ingrained or inculcated by life experience, including within the family - can help to explain how teenagers in poorer families become subject to intergenerational cycles of health and economic inequalities as a result of tobacco use.

Tobacco control policies and smoking cessation programmes should take this into account.



References

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Thank you

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Results

Perceived Relative Wealth and Smoking/E-Cigarette Use

(Q. C52. How well off is your family compared to other families in your country?)

Smoking Status	Perceived Relative Familial Wealth, p<0.001							
	Total	Very much better off	Much better off	Better off	About the same	Less well off	Much less well off	Very much less well off
Never	1345 (76.2)	78 (74.3)	202 (77.7)	463 (79.1)	512 (76.6)	67 (65.0)	9 (40.9)	14 (63.6)
Ever	420 (23.8)	27 (25.7)	58 (22.3)	122 (20.9)	156 (23.4)	36 (35.0)	13 (59.1)	8 (36.4)
Current (last 30 days)	203 (11.5)	17 (16.2)	26 (10.0)	50 (8.5)	74 (11.1)	25 (24.3)	5 (22.7)	6 (27.3)
Total	1765 (100)	105 (5.9)	260 (14.7)	585 (33.1)	668 (37.8)	103 (5.8)	22 (1.2)	22 (1.2)

Table 1 : Associations between perceived relative wealth and smoking

(Q. C52. How well off is your family compared to other families in your country?)

E-cigarette Use	Perceived Relative Familial Wealth, p<0.001							
	Total	Very much better off	Much better off	Better off	About the same	Less well off	Much less well off	Very much less well off
Never	1191 (67.6)	71 (67.6)	188 (72.3)	400 (68.4)	457 (68.6)	55 (53.4)	8 (36.4)	12 (54.5)
Ever	565 (32.0)	34 (32.4)	72 (27.7)	183 (31.3)	209 (31.4)	48 (46.6)	14 (63.6)	5 (22.7)
Current (last 30 days)	279 (15.8)	21 (20.0)	34 (13.1)	81 (13.8)	98 (14.7)	34 (33.0)	6 (27.3)	5 (22.7)
Total	1763 (100.0)	105 (6.0)	260 (14.7)	585 (33.2)	666 (37.8)	103 (5.8)	22 (1.2)	22 (1.2)

Table 2 : Associations between perceived relative wealth and e-cigarette use

