

# Smoking Predictors for Teens in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia

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## **Introduction:**

Smoking is a public health problem worldwide. Most smokers start at a young age and continue into adulthood. This cross-sectional study aimed to identify predictors of smoking among teens in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. Using the components of the Health Promotion Model, our research aimed to identify personal, social/cultural, and psychological factors that predict smoking status among teens.

## **Methods and Data:**

Using the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) for the two countries, a data set of fourteen thousand seventy-nine participants was constructed. Logistic regression was used to determine predictors of smoking.

## **Results:**

Over two thousand -two hundred (15.7%) teens reported being current smokers. Findings identified complex, multi-factorial influences on smoking status in teens. The analyses supported all theoretically relevant components of the model. Some examples of specific findings: Those who did not support banning smoking indoors (OR=5.38) or in outdoor public places (OR=3.26) were more likely to smoke. Students who did not believe that secondhand smoke exposure (OR=2.62) or smoking was harmful to their health (OR=2.19) were more likely to smoke. Several other variables were identified as significant predictors of smoking based on the constructs of the Health Promotion Model.

## **Conclusion:**

Findings support existing literature on smoking prevalence among teens worldwide. This study was the first to analyze GYTS to identify smoking predictors among teens in Bosnia, Herzegovina and Croatia. The presentation will include full details of findings as well as policy, practice, and culturally appropriate intervention strategies.