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## Characteristics of socio-economic context of the development tobacco addiction of students

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### Abstract

In this paper we discuss tobacco addiction, one of the major risk factors for human health integrity. The purpose of the research was to identify relationships between tobacco dependence and demographic factors that influence individual and contextual dependent behavior. We chose to examine a total of 664 students who are occasional smokers. The research method is based on a questionnaire survey. The statistical procedures used were frequency analysis, comparisons between the two groups and application of association tests. Differences between the two groups are influenced by the socio-economic and cultural environment of origin.

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*Keywords:* tobacco addiction, risk factor, health, socio-economic environment

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### 1. Introduction

Smoking is the leading preventable cause of premature death and disability, resulting in approximately four million deaths each year, even more than HIV, alcohol, car accidents, murders, suicides and fires (Yildiz, Dogan, 2011). Romania occupies the fourth place in the ranking of EU countries in terms of the number of smokers. The prohibition of all forms of advertising and promotion of tobacco products has been considered for a long time the key to success in reducing smoking. We observed in cigarette manufacturing companies' policies, among others, a change in the implementation of advertising. They have developed special departments to investigate the relationships between the responses of adolescents to hidden advertisement in television programs, movies and even music videos and the subsequent use of tobacco by young people, thus voluntary circumventing restrictions on

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placement of tobacco products (Arghir, Dantescu, Stoicescu, Baicu, Halichidis, Ciobotaru, Man, Cambrea, 2013), (Chapman, 1996), (Mihăltan, Nițu, 2008).

Since most young people start smoking even before or immediately after high school, these students should be a primary objective for smoking prevention programs at this age. Academic training may also create opportunities to succeed both in prevention of mortality and morbidity by discouraging tobacco use, as well as initiation and / or continuation of harmful health behaviours, such as smoking (Alexopoulos, Jelastopulu, Dougenis, 2010). Some studies demonstrate that students still do not receive adequate training in this regard (Raupach, Shahab, Baetzing, Hoffmann, Hasenfuss, West, Andreas, 2009). Young's models often come from people who appear in the media and whose presence on the small screen while smoking leads to induction idea that smoking may be correlated with success; disappearing even the idea of harmfulness (Farrelly, M. C., Kamyab, K., Nonnemaker, J., Crankshaw, E., & Allen, J. A., 2012). Studies show that there are significant relationships between subjects' predisposition to smoking and their opinions on smoking and the curriculum in health education (Tiurean, Popa, Rogozea, 2014).

As far as public health policy to reduce smoking goes, today most countries are going to adopt, had adopted and even want tighter anti-smoking laws going as far as completely banning this practice. In Romania, smoking is one of the risk behaviours accepted by society, relative easily, although when joining the European Union (EU), the Romanian government was forced to introduce into national law the EU directives (Warren, Jones, Peruga, Chauvin, Baptiste, Costa de Silva et al., 2008). Currently, smoking is not allowed in public institutions of central and local institutions and economic establishments, catering, tourism, commercial, educational, medical, cultural, educational, sporting, and in all means of transportation, bus stations, railway stations and airports, state and private enclosed workplace or other premises provided by law, except in areas specifically designated and designed for smoking in their premises, this prohibition is based on the Convention - WHO framework (World Health Organization (WHO)) on tobacco control, respectively Act No. 332/2005 on the ratification of the WHO framework Convention on Tobacco Control (Law No. 332/2005).

## **2. The purpose of the research**

We aimed to identify the relationship between the degree of dependency (operationalized by the number of cigarettes smoked daily) and demographic factors that influence individual and contextual dependent behaviour.

## **3. Participants**

After studying the field literature, we discovered that there is a poor representation of the occasional smokers category among adolescents and young people in the field trials, which led us to orient ourselves in this study to investigate the views of this group of smokers in early stage. Research sample comprises a total of 664 subjects divided participants into two groups, 329 students (49.5% of the group) belong to „Transilvania” University of Brasov, 335 students (50.5%) to the Electrical Engineering Faculty of the Technical University Faculty of Medicine, University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Iuliu Hațieganu" in Cluj-Napoca. The plot is composed of subjects with ages between 18 and 50 years old. We preferred to divide them into three age classes to describe participants according to these variables. The prevalence of subjects with the age up to 26 years we can explain by the fact that university studies are usually pursued after finishing high school. Regarding gender distribution, our group consists of 336 female subjects, representing 50.6% of the total investigated lot, and 328 male subjects, representing 49.4% of the population investigated, a trend observed among population of our country. We chose to compare students from two cities: Brasov and Cluj, due to similarities and differences between them. Although both cities have a large number of students, Cluj's student population is much bigger; Brasov up to 1989 was primarily an industrial centre with a mainly technical university, humanistic branch being developed only in recent years. Cluj was a predominantly humanistic university, although there was a technical university well represented and cultural area was much better represented by the number and quality of institutions of art and culture. The GDP in the two counties for 2014 is quite close - Brasov hovering 4th nationally, closely followed by Cluj ranked 6.

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