

To Light Up or Snuff Out?: Estimating Adolescent Smoking Behavior in Nepal

Kristina N. Piorkowski^{1,2} Alok K. Bohara^{1,3}

¹Department of Economics, University of New Mexico

²Center for Health Policy
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

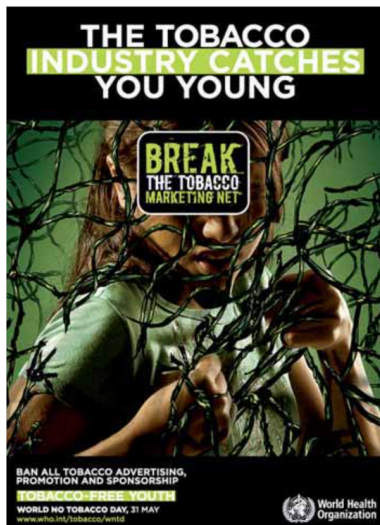
³Sustainable Development Action Lab:
Nepal Study Center

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- 1 Introduction
- 2 Conceptual and Empirical Model
- 3 Data & Estimation
- 4 Results
- 5 Discussion

Smoking Prevalence In Nepal



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Table: Prevalence of tobacco use: current cigarette smoking

	2012	2017
Adolescents 13-15 yo		

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Girls	0.8%	3.0%
Adults 15+ yo		

Smoking Prevalence In Nepal

Table: Prevalence of tobacco use: current cigarette smoking

	2012	2017
Adolescents 13-15 yo		
Boys	5.5%	6.8%
Girls	0.8%	3.0%
Adults 15+ yo		
Men	29.8%	26.9%
Women	8.7%	10.1%

Source: WHO MPOWER reports 2013 & 2017

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- Jensen & Llera-Muney, 2012: Eight grade students in the Dominican Republic, peer effects and disposable income influence smoking rates.
- Aryal et al., 2013: Amongst teenagers in Nepal, boys are more at risk to start smoking. Short terms smoking related risks and smoking related social risk were less susceptible to start smoking.

Research Questions

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- What factors promote and mitigate smoking behaviors among adolescents in Nepal?
- Do these factors impact boys and girls differently?
- How can these findings be used to create policy to reduce rates current smoking and increase the number of former smokers?

Contribution

- Use two waves of nationally representative data
- Examine boys and girls smoking separately
- Model three smoking status

Overview of Findings

- Having a peer who smokes greatly increases the odds of being a current smoker.
- Many factors influenced boys to start smoking, but only a few influenced girls.
- Girls who know that smoking is harmful decreases the odds of being a former smoker, hence more likely to be a never smoker.
- Exposure to anti-smoking media increased the odds of being a current smoker.

Random Utility Framework

Let the indirect utility for individual i be written as

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$$Pr(y_i = j) = Pr(U_{ij} \geq U_{ik}) \forall k$$

Empirical Model

■ Smoking Status

$$S_i = f(PE_i, TP_i, HE_i)$$

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■ Smoking Status: Multinomial Logit

$$p_{ij} = \frac{\exp(\mathbf{x}_i' \beta_j)}{\sum_{i=1}^m \exp(\mathbf{x}_i' \beta_j)} j = 1, \dots, m$$

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2. Those who perceive that smoking has positive social implications will be more likely to be a current smoker.
3. Girls who know that smoking can lead to weight loss will be more likely to be a current smoker.
4. Better health education on smoking (formal or informal) increase the odds of being a never smoker or former smoker.

Global Youth and Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

- GYTS has been administered in over 131 nations
- Two-stage cluster sample → nationally representative of 13-15 year olds
- Two waves of data 2007 and 2011
- 5,090 respondents (2,566 boys and 2,524 girls)

	Together	Boys	Girls
	Mean(SD)	Mean(SD)	Mean(SD)
Smoking Status (%)			
Never Smoker	87.92	82.13	93.83
Current Smoker	5.31	8.56	1.99
Former Smoker	6.77	9.32	4.18
Peer Influence (<i>I=yes</i>)			
Friends Smoke	0.413	0.538	0.285
Parents Smoke	0.489	0.508	0.47

Summary Stats

	Together Mean(SD)	Boys Mean(SD)	Girls Mean(SD)
Perception and Marketing			
Social Perception			
Level of Attraction/ Ease at Parties	-0.00000002 (1.260)	-0.02 (1.254)	0.002 (1.263)
Popularity	0.000000005 (1.208)	0.006 (1.246)	-0.013 (1.172)
Perception of Adult Smokers	0.0000000003 (1.121)	0.073 (1.223)	-0.076 (0.999)
Health Perception			
Cigarettes and Weight (%)			
Gain Weight	6.83	6.95	6.70
Lose Weight	87.62	86.10	89.17
No Difference ^b	5.50	6.95	4.13
Smoking Cigarettes is Harmful (<i>I=yes</i>)	0.880	0.873	0.886
Others Cigarette Smoking Is Harmful to You (<i>I=yes</i>)	0.862	0.861	0.863
Media Exposure			
Pro-tobacco Exposure	0.0000000003 (1.434)	0.038 (1.443)	-0.034 (1.422)

▶ PCA

	Together	Boys	Girls
	Mean(SD)	Mean(SD)	Mean(SD)
Health Education and Anti-Tobacco Awareness			
Quality of Smoking Education (%)			
None ^b	16.80	17.42	16.16
Low	16.48	17.77	15.17
Medium	25.60	26.77	24.41
High	41.12	38.04	44.26
Anti-Tobacco Media Exposure (<i>I=yes</i>)	0.245	0.242	0.247
Family discussed smoking	0.664	0.653	0.675

Empirical Methods

$$y_{ij} = \alpha + \delta \text{PeerEffects}_i + \beta \text{TobaccoPerception}_i + \omega \text{Education}_i + \xi \text{Controls}_i + \varepsilon_{ij}$$

■ Multinomial logit

- ▶ Test IIA Assumption [▶ IIA](#)
- ▶ Sensitivity analysis: multinomial probit

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■ All results use robust standard errors, weights, and are clustered at the school-class level

Table 2: Multinomial Logit Results of Both Sexes Combined and Separately

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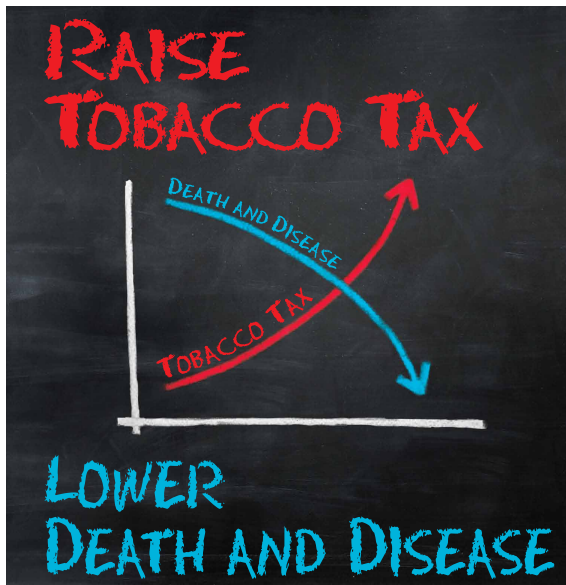
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- Increase tobacco tax: WHO best practice $> 75\%$ of the retail price should come from taxes
 - ▶ In 2016 Nepal is at 26% the **lowest** reported in South East Asia



Limitations

- GYTS and demographic information
- Cross-sectional data
- Preliminary analysis

Extending this project

- Update modeling

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■ Update modeling

- ▶ Excess zeros: multinomial probit with excess zeros, rare events multinomial logit, or random sampling of non-smokers
- ▶ Count of cigarettes smoked: interval estimation or hurdle model

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■ Smokeless tobacco - Nepal 12.9% of girls and 4.8% of women

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- Friends who smoke greatly \uparrow the odds of smoking. High quality education \uparrow odds of being a never smoker.
- Boys: having parents who smoke or think smoking makes people popular \uparrow current smoker.
- Girls: think that adult smokers are cool \uparrow . But knowing that smoking is harmful \uparrow odds of being a never smoker.

Future Research and Research Interests

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 - ▶ Structural constraints on health decisions
 - ▶ Domestic Research: Racial/ethnic disparity in folic acid intake
 - ▶ International Research: Non-cigarette usage by women

Contact Information

Please feel free to contact me about this or other projects!

Thank you for your time.

Kristina Piorkowski

kpiorkow@unm.edu

www.kristinapiorkowski.com

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	Current Smoker			Former Smoker		
	Together	Boys	Girls	Together	Boys	Girls
Peer Influence						
Friends Smoke	2.102*** (0.248)	1.949*** (0.298)	2.618*** (0.465)	0.781*** (0.190)	0.645*** (0.203)	0.849*** (0.281)
Parents Smoke	0.341* (0.177)	0.424* (0.238)	0.0230 (0.470)	0.127 (0.131)	0.0973 (0.179)	0.186 (0.266)
Perception and Marketing						
Social Perception						
Level of Attraction/ Ease at Parties	-0.0342 (0.0755)	-0.0526 (0.0907)	0.0804 (0.154)	0.0448 (0.0691)	0.0203 (0.0804)	0.0764 (0.117)
Popularity	0.190*** (0.0645)	0.295*** (0.0806)	-0.239 (0.172)	0.0449 (0.0680)	0.127* (0.0742)	-0.120 (0.134)
Perception of Adult Smokers	0.0718 (0.0690)	0.0352 (0.0784)	0.237** (0.113)	0.140*** (0.0543)	0.137** (0.0686)	0.0925 (0.0942)
Health Perception						
Cigarettes and Weight						
Gain Weight	-1.081** (0.494)	-1.284** (0.585)	-0.377 (0.898)	0.118 (0.356)	-0.313 (0.400)	1.549 (0.972)
Lose Weight	-1.012*** (0.326)	-1.148*** (0.394)	-0.303 (0.695)	-0.199 (0.253)	-0.410 (0.294)	0.811 (0.784)
Smoking Cigarettes is Harmful	0.320 (0.349)	0.303 (0.372)	0.179 (0.610)	-0.671*** (0.229)	-0.432* (0.261)	-1.169*** (0.391)
Other's Smoking Harmful	-0.286 (0.258)	-0.152 (0.309)	-0.730 (0.534)	0.206 (0.240)	0.180 (0.331)	0.381 (0.405)
Media Exposure						
Pro-tobacco Exposure	0.0822 (0.0764)	0.0707 (0.0831)	0.198 (0.137)	-0.00837 (0.0680)	0.0223 (0.0815)	-0.0569 (0.107)

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Health Education and Anti Tobacco Awareness						
Health Education						
Quality of Smoking Education						
Low	-0.0106 (0.226)	-0.0114 (0.275)	-0.131 (0.544)	0.0767 (0.274)	-0.233 (0.310)	0.675 (0.551)
Medium	-0.465 (0.299)	-0.299 (0.349)	-1.298* (0.699)	-0.0281 (0.230)	0.0341 (0.271)	-0.156 (0.516)
High	-0.559** (0.224)	-0.474* (0.251)	-0.933* (0.481)	-0.136 (0.246)	-0.236 (0.257)	0.153 (0.537)
Informal Education						
Anti Tobacco Media Exposure	0.677*** (0.206)	0.548** (0.235)	1.084** (0.475)	0.316* (0.190)	0.388 (0.258)	0.335 (0.422)
Parents Discuss Smoking Dangers	0.170 (0.168)	0.193 (0.205)	0.203 (0.377)	0.104 (0.168)	0.209 (0.182)	-0.0875 (0.319)

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	Current Smoker			Former Smoker		
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Age						
14-15 yo	0.504 (0.379)	0.772 (0.498)	-0.409 (0.524)	0.355 (0.269)	0.310 (0.339)	0.492 (0.383)
16 + yo	1.237*** (0.391)	1.458*** (0.534)	0.542 (0.592)	0.533* (0.288)	0.571* (0.346)	0.374 (0.411)
Grade						
Eighth	1.115*** (0.426)	0.815* (0.484)	3.133*** (0.886)	0.119 (0.308)	0.256 (0.389)	-0.00320 (0.390)
Ninth	0.842* (0.440)	0.602 (0.463)	2.736*** (0.924)	0.164 (0.329)	0.499 (0.422)	-0.435 (0.411)
Tenth	0.907** (0.454)	0.775 (0.492)	2.296** (1.089)	0.366 (0.344)	0.700 (0.439)	-0.132 (0.517)
Year 2011	-0.669*** (0.245)	-0.729** (0.285)	-0.578 (0.475)	0.125 (0.222)	-0.00596 (0.254)	0.530 (0.400)
Female	-1.029*** (0.272)			-0.662*** (0.206)		
Constant	-4.409*** (0.796)	-4.344*** (0.886)	-6.760*** (1.571)	-2.944*** (0.454)	-2.955*** (0.516)	-4.586*** (1.075)
Observations	4,447	2,234	2,213	4,447	2,234	2,213
AIC	3101716	2128226	906935.8	3101716	2128226	906935.8
BIC	3102011	2128477	907186.7	3102011	2128477	907186.7

Notes: The base category for smoking status is never smoker. Robust standard errors in parentheses *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1. Standard errors clustered at the school-classroom level. Source: GYTS Nepal 2007 and 2011.

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- Takes many similar measures and reduces these measures into the minimum number of components with the maximum amount of variation
- Used for social perception (7 variables) and pro-tobacco exposure (5 variables)

Principal Component Analysis

- A data reduction method
- Takes many similar measures and reduces these measures into the minimum number of components with the maximum amount of variation
- Used for social perception (7 variables) and pro-tobacco exposure (5 variables)
- Kept components whose eigenvalues exceeded one (Kaiser's Rule)
- Used varimax rotation to improve factor loading distribution

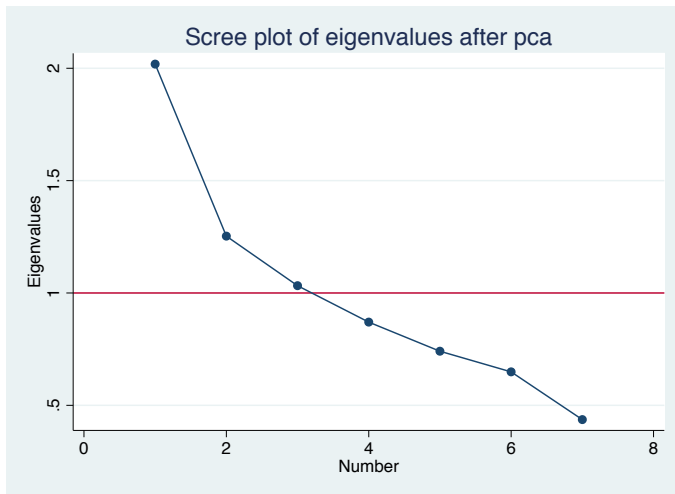
Social Perception PCA Example

- Do you think boys who smoke cigarettes have more or less friends?
- Do you think girls who smoke cigarettes have more or less friends?
- Do you think smoking cigarettes help people feel more or less comfortable at celebrations, parties, or in social gatherings?
- Do you think smoking cigarettes makes boys look more or less attractive?
- Do you think smoking cigarettes makes girls look more or less attractive?
- When you see a man smoking, what do you think of him?
- When you see a woman smoking, what do you think of him?

Social Perception PCA Example

Component	Eigenvalue	Difference	Proportion	Cumulative
1	2.0185	0.7655	0.2884	0.2884
2	1.2529	0.2206	0.1790	0.4673
3	1.0324	0.1621	0.1475	0.6148
4	0.8702	0.1296	0.1243	0.7391
5	0.7407	0.0918	0.1058	0.8450
6	0.6488	0.2124	0.0927	0.9376
7	0.4365	.	0.0624	1.0000

Scree Plot



Unrotated Principal Components, eigenvectors

Variable	Comp1	Comp2	Comp3	Unexplained
1	0.453		-0.5496	0.2738
2	0.4539		-0.5197	0.3052
3	0.3413			0.7417
4	0.4873		0.4404	0.3111
5	0.4747		0.4613	0.325
6		0.695		0.3738
7		0.711		0.3657

Note: Blanks are $\text{abs}(\text{loading}) < .3$.

Principal Component, eigenvectors, orthogonal varimax rotation

Variable	Comp1	Comp2	Comp3	Unexplained
1		0.7120		0.2738
2		0.6901		0.3052
3	0.3494			0.7417
4	0.6618			0.3111
5	0.6603			0.3250
6			0.7019	0.3738
7			0.7102	0.3657

Note: Blanks are $\text{abs}(\text{loading}) < .3$.

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Independence of Irrelevant Alternatives

The odds of a particular choice are unaffected by the presence of additional alternatives.

$$\frac{P_{1i}}{P_{2i}} = \frac{\exp(\mathbf{x}'_{1i}\beta_j) / \sum_{i=1}^m \exp(\mathbf{x}'_i\beta_j)}{\exp(\mathbf{x}'_i\beta_j) / \sum_{i=1}^m \exp(\mathbf{x}'_{2i}\beta_j)} = \frac{\exp(\mathbf{x}'_{1i}\beta_j)}{\exp(\mathbf{x}'_{2i}\beta_j)}$$

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This is particularly a problem when alternatives are considered substitutes for each other.

Example: Red Bike, Blue Bike

Pony	Blue Bike		Ratio
$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	—	2:1

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Example: Red Bike, Blue Bike

Pony	Blue Bike	Red Bike	Ratio
$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	—	2:1
$\frac{4}{6}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	

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Example: Red Bike, Blue Bike

Pony	Blue Bike	Red Bike	Ratio
$2/3$	$1/3$	—	2:1
$4/6$	$1/6$	$1/6$	4:1

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Example: Red Bike, Blue Bike

Pony	Blue Bike	Red Bike	Ratio
$2/3$	$1/3$	—	2:1
$4/6$	$1/6$	$1/6$	4:1
$2/4$	$1/4$	$1/4$	2:1

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Hence we overestimate the probability of selecting either bike and underestimate the probability of selecting the pony.