

**FACTORS INFLUENCING THE SMOKING BEHAVIOR  
OF THE STUDENTS OF MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY,  
SALAYA CAMPUS**



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**ABSTRACT**

A cross-sectional study aimed to determine the smoking behaviors and factors influencing the smoking behaviors among the students of Mahidol University, Salaya Campus. Data were collected from February 6 to 20, 2009 through a structured questionnaire. The total number of respondents was 205, which consisted of 62.93% males and 37.07% females.

The prevalence of smoking among the students in this study was 74.64% and 25.37% were non-smokers, with more male smokers (86.05%) than female (55.26%). Most of the smokers were in the age group 16-20 (69.86%).

This study concluded that a significant association between smoking behaviors and factors related to smoking behaviors among respondents were found: Age (P-value=0.014%); Gender (P-value<0.001); Education of father (P-value = 0.007%); Education of mother (P-value=0.033%); Average allowance (P-value = 0.023%); Academic achievement (P-value=0.040%); Knowledge of health hazards of smoking (P-value=0.001); Attitude level (P-value<0.001); peer pressure (P-value =0.005).

From the findings of this study, the recommendations that can be offered are that there should be a health education and health promotion program and smoking cessation program, in order to increase the knowledge level and attitude level of smoking among the students during primary as well as secondary school level. The government should increase tax on cigarettes so that it increase price of cigarette packets. Parents, teachers and school management teams should be organized in order to prevent smoking among students.

**KEY WORDS : FACTORS/ SMOKING BEHAVIOR/ UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

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