

PS2.128

Factors affecting secondhand smoke exposure at home and in workplace among non-smoking Korean adults

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Background: Secondhand smoking (SHS) exposure is associated with many adverse health effects. The aim of this study was to evaluate factors affecting secondhand smoke exposure in nonsmoking Koreans in a representative sample of the South Korean adults.

Method: We used data from the Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey in 2010-2012 (n=14,447). Predictor variables included age, gender, region, educational attainment, marital status, and household income. Outcome variable is self-reported secondhand smoking exposure among non-smoking adults. Multivariable logistic regression analysis was used to examine association between predictor variables and SHS exposure at home and in the workplace. Analyses were undertaken with SPSS version 21.0.

Results: SHS exposure at home was greater among female (16.8%) than male (4.9%). in contrast, SHS exposure at work among male (54.8%) was greater than female (38.4%). for men, marital status was independently associated with SHS exposure at home. in the workplace, higher odds SHS exposure was found among younger age group and higher alcohol dependency.

Conclusion: Despite of strengthening of smoke-free policy, secondhand smoking is relatively prevalent among Korean adults. Moreover, there were subgroups which were more vulnerable to SHS. Findings highlight the need for comprehensive tobacco control measures to promote smoke-free policy in Korea with more emphasis on vulnerable subgroups.