

## **Tobacco and financial hardship: a systematic review and meta-analysis of observational research.**

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**Introduction and Aims:** Price increases are an often-recommended strategy for reducing the demand of addictive substances. In Australia, this strategy has been implemented most extensively for tobacco control. Tobacco dependent people may experience financial stress and deprivation if they continue to smoke at increased prices. While financial stress predicts quit attempts, quitters who are financially stressed are more likely to recommence tobacco use. Perceived stress and adverse material conditions also influence other smoking-related behaviours.

This systematic review and meta-analysis aims to investigate the association between tobacco use and financial hardship (defined as financial stress and smoking-induced deprivation).

**Design and Methods:** Observational studies were searched for using PubMed, EMBASE, PsycINFO, Web of Science, Tobacconomics, EconLit, Eldis from January 1980 to May 2021. Grey literature was identified using additional database searches and cited reference searches. Studies eligible for inclusion will be evaluated for strength and quality of evidence. Meta-analyses will be conducted.

**Results:** The web-based literature search returned approximately 2000 citations. Results will be available at the time of the conference.

**Discussions and Conclusions:** The near-universality of tobacco control strategies targeting price presents an opportunity to explore the possible undesirable effects of price increases as general substance control strategy and to understand how these measures can most equitably be designed. The findings of this systematic review will be of interest to equity, public policy and substance control researchers as well as bodies responsible for the implementation of price controls and taxation.

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