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| **Domain:** | Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Substances |
| **Measure:** | Tobacco - Age of Initiation of Use |
| **Definition:** | Questions asking the respondent how old s/he was when s/he first smoked cigarettes and first smoked cigarettes regularly. |
| **Purpose:** | This measure assesses when the participant's exposure to cigarette smoking began, often associated with level of nicotine addiction. When this measure is used in conjunction with the Tobacco - Age of Offset of Use measure for former smokers or current age for current smokers, the participant's duration of smoking can be derived. Pack-years can also be derived from calculating the measure of amount smoked and duration. |
| **Essential PhenX Measures:** | Current Age Tobacco - Smoking Status |
| **Related PhenX Measures:** | Tobacco - Age of Offset of Use Tobacco - Nicotine Dependence |
| **Collections:** | Tobacco Use Core: Tier 1 Mental Health Research Core: Tier 2 Sickle Cell Disease: Core Tier 2 |
| **Keywords:** | tobacco, smoking, cigarette, nicotine, nicotine dependence, duration of smoking, pack years, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, NSDUH |

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| **Protocol Release Date:** | February 6, 2009 |
| **PhenX Protocol Name:** | Protocol 2: Tobacco - Age of Initiation of Use (Adult Protocol) |
| **Protocol Name from Source:** | The Expert Review Panel has not reviewed this measure yet. |
| **Description:** | Measurement to ascertain the respondent's age of initiation of first/regular use of cigarettes, which can be used to calculate duration of use and pack-years measures. The PhenX Working Group modified the Adult Protocol to provide a more precise measure. The original wording of "fairly regularly" was changed to "every day." |
| **Specific Instructions:** | There are two questions in this protocol. Current Every-Day Smokers (based on responses to the Tobacco - Smoking Status [Adult Protocol]) are asked the age when they initiated smoking every day. Current Some-Day Smokers and Former Smokers (based on responses to the Tobacco - Smoking Status [Adult Protocol]) are asked the second question about the age when they initiated smoking fairly regularly. Participant's age in years is recorded. |
| **Protocol:** | *The Working Group acknowledges that the following questions may gather sensitive information relating to the use of substances and/or illegal conduct. If the information is released it might be damaging to an individual's employability, lead to social stigmatization, or other consequences.*  *For information on obtaining a Certificate of Confidentiality, which helps researchers protect the privacy of human research participants, please go to the National Human Genome Research Institute's Institutional Review Board website.*  *The original wording of the first question in this adult protocol was modified from "FAIRLY REGULARLY" to "every day" in order to provide a more precise measure for those who ever smoked every day.*  *Note to interviewer: Respondents who were classified as a "Current Every-Day Smoker" by answering the Tobacco - Smoking Status (Adult Protocol) Question 1 as "Yes" (Have you smoked at least 100 cigarettes in your entire life?) and Question 2 as "Every day" (Do you now smoke cigarettes every day, some days, or not at all?) are asked:*  How old were you when you first started smoking cigarettes every day?  ENTER AGE: \_\_\_\_ [RANGE: 1 - 99]  Don't Know / Refused  Note to interviewer: Respondents who were classified as a "Current Some-Day Smoker" or "Former Smoker" by answering the Tobacco - Smoking Status (Adult Protocol) Question 1 as "Yes" (Have you smoked at least 100 cigarettes in your entire life?) and Question 2 (Do you now smoke cigarettes every day, some days, or not at all?) as "Some days" or "Not at all" AND answered Question 3 (Have you EVER smoked cigarettes EVERY DAY for at least 6 months?) as "Yes" are asked:  How old were you when you first started smoking cigarettes FAIRLY REGULARLY?  ENTER AGE: \_\_\_\_ [RANGE: 1 - 99]  Don't Know / Refused  *Note to interviewer: ENTER (X) IF NEVER SMOKED REGULARLY.* |
| **Selection Rationale:** | The protocol from the Tobacco Use Supplement to the Current Population Survey (TUS-CPS) was chosen because it is a large survey (each survey wave includes about 240,000 respondents) of the U.S. noninstitutionalized civilian population that has been conducted since 1992 in a consistent manner. The next wave is being planned for 2010-2011, and it is anticipated that the survey will be conducted triennially over the next decade. The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is the primary sponsor of the survey series, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) serving as cosponsor between 2001 and 2007. The TUS is an adult-focused survey, and its questions are comparable to the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics' National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) and NCI's Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS). |
| **Source:** | U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau. (2008). National Cancer Institute and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Co-sponsored Tobacco Use Supplement to the Current Population Survey (2006-2007) Technical documentation. Questions A2 modified and A2. |
| **Life Stage:** | Adult |
| **Language of source:** | English, Available in other languages |
| **Participant:** |  Every-day smokers: Response to question "On the average, about how many cigarettes do you now smoke each day?"   Some-day smokers: [(Response to question "On the average, on those days, how many cigarettes did you usually smoke each day?") X (Response to "On how many of the past 30 days did you smoke cigarettes?")] / 30   Former smokers:   * Respondents who smoked every day for ≥6 months: Response to question "When you last smoked every day, on average how many cigarettes did you smoke each day?" * Respondents who did not smoke every day for ≥6 months: Response to question "When you last smoked fairly regularly, on average how many cigarettes did you smoke each day?"    The Fagerstrom Test for Nicotine Dependence measure (4. How many cigarettes/day do you smoke?) can also be used to calculate the amount of cigarettes smoked.   * Use the midpoint from the response category to obtain the number of cigarettes smoked per day.   4 Duration calculation provided above |
| **Personnel and Training Required:** | Interviewer must be trained and found competent to conduct personal interviews with individuals from the general population. The interviewer should be trained to prompt respondents further if a "don't know" response is provided. |
| **Equipment Needs:** | While the source instrument was developed for administration by computer, the PhenX Working Group acknowledges that these questions can be administered in a noncomputerized format. |
| **Standards:** | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Standard** | **Name** | **ID** | **Source** | | Common Data Element (CDE) | Tobacco Begin Age Value | 2820880 | [CDE Browser](https://cdebrowser.nci.nih.gov/CDEBrowser/search?elementDetails=9&FirstTimer=0&PageId=ElementDetailsGroup&publicId=2820880&version=1.0) | | Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC) | Tobac age init use adult proto | 62495-7 | [LOINC](http://s.details.loinc.org/LOINC/62495-7.html?sections=Web) | |
| **General references:** | National Cancer Institute. (2009). *Tobacco Use Supplement to the Current Population Survey: Reports and publications using the TUS-CPS* [Bibliography]. Available from http://riskfactor.cancer.gov/studies/tus-cps/publications.html |
| **Mode of Administration:** | Interviewer-administered questionnaire |
| **Derived Variables:** | **Duration of smoking:** (Tobacco - Age of Offset of Use1 OR Current Age) - (Tobacco - Age of Initiation of Use)2  **Pack-years:** (Tobacco - 30-Day Quantity and Frequency)3 X (Duration)4  1 Tobacco - Age of Offset of Use:   * Adolescents: (Current Age) - (length of time response to the question: "How old were you the last time you smoked part or all of a cigarette?") * Adults: (Current Age) - (length of time response to the question: "About how long has it been since you COMPLETELY quit smoking cigarettes?")   2 Tobacco - Age of Initiation of Use:   * Adolescents: Age derived from the answer to: 2. "How old were you when you first started smoking cigarettes every day?" OR - For those who never smoked every day, the answer from 1. "How old were you when you first smoked part or all of a cigarette?" * Adults: Age derived from the answer to: 1. "How old were you when you first started smoking cigarettes every day?" OR - For those who never smoked every day, the answer from 2. "How old were you when you first started smoking cigarettes fairly regularly?"   3 Tobacco - 30-Day Quantity and Frequency:   * Adolescents: Response to question "On the [number of days reported in 2a or 2b] you smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days, how many cigarettes did you smoke per day, on average?" * Adults   + Every-day smokers: Response to question "On the average, about how many cigarettes do you now smoke each day?"   + Some-day smokers: [(Response to question "On the average, on those days, how many cigarettes did you usually smoke each day?") X (Response to "On how many of the past 30 days did you smoke cigarettes?")] / 30   + Former smokers:     - Respondents who smoked every day for ≥6 months: Response to question "When you last smoked every day, on average how many cigarettes did you smoke each day?"     - Respondents who did not smoke every day for ≥6 months: Response to question "When you last smoked fairly regularly, on average how many cigarettes did you smoke each day?"   + The Fagerstrom Test for Nicotine Dependence measure (4. How many cigarettes/day do you smoke?) can also be used to calculate the amount of cigarettes smoked.     - Use the midpoint from the response category to obtain the number of cigarettes smoked per day.   4 Duration calculation provided above |
| **Requirements:** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Requirement Category** | **Required** | | Major equipment | No | | Specialized training | No | | Specialized requirements for biospecimen collection | No | | Average time of greater than 15 minutes in an unaffected individual | No | |
| **Process and Review:** | The Expert Review Panel has not reviewed this measure yet. |