How Are Tobacco Purchasing and Financial Stress Related? A Cross Sectional Study of Australian Household Survey Data.

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Introduction and Aims:
Australian current smokers are increasingly likely to be of low socioeconomic status despite the rising price of tobacco products. In this modern context, little is known about how financial stress and tobacco expenditure are related. This study aims to estimate the prevalence of financial stresses among Australian tobacco-purchasing households and to describe the relationship of tobacco expenditure, household characteristics, socioeconomic factors and financial stress amongst Australian households.

Design and Methods:
All 10,046 Australian households of the Household Expenditure Survey 2015-16 were included. Financial stress measurement comprised 9 questions on financial resources and problems. Socioeconomic and demographic data were also collected. Jack-knife replicate weights were applied to analyses. Prevalence estimations and cross-sectional analysis of relationships between variables using bivariate and multivariate logistic regressions will be conducted.

Results:
This is research in progress. As such, full results are pending. Initial results suggest tobacco-purchasing households have 1.78-times (95% CI: 1.51, 2.09) greater odds of reporting any financial stress than non-purchasing households when simultaneously accounting for age, educational attainment, occupation, unemployed residents, social security beneficiaries, tenure, rural location, lone parenthood and equivalized disposable income. Tobacco-purchasing households also have greatly increased odds of reporting 3 or more financial stress items (OR = 2.09, 95% CI: 1.55–2.81) when controlling for the same characteristics.

Discussions and Conclusions:
Policy to combat control tobacco use should be effective and equitable. This study provides policymakers with an insight into the correlates and possible consequences of high tobacco expenditure. Future research may expand on our findings with longitudinal study of the relationships.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: