

Title: Tobacco Use and Permanent Teeth Loss in West Virginia and Idaho

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Background/Purpose: Tobacco use influences one's overall health (Foiles Sifuentes et al., 2020). Tobacco use, poor oral health, and poor access to medical services characterize rural areas. The purpose of the study is to examine these associations among a large group of adults in two rural areas: West Virginia and Idaho.

Methods: We examined the relation between smoking status permanent tooth loss in West Virginia and Idaho. Using the 2020 BRFSS, data from 5,637 West Virginians 5,670 Idahoans were included.

Results: Results were significant, X^2 (DF=3, N=11866) = 452.296, $p < .001$. Inspection of cross-tabulation showed higher tooth loss among those who were smokers. These results were moderated by age, such that more tooth loss was experienced among older smokers, relative to older non-smokers. People of West Virginia showed higher rates of tooth loss than people of Idaho.

Conclusions: Our results demonstrate the relation between smoking and dental health. Such results can be used to form location-specific interventions to better oral and overall health in rural areas.