

Culture and Practice of Smoking as a Stigmatized Health Behavior: Generation and Gender
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Cigarette smoking remains a significant public health concern. It has become a stigmatized health behavior because it affects how healthcare decisions are made and whether individuals pursue health advice or not. Research shows past generations perspectives of smoking, which reveals how normalized this behavior was for everyone to smoke. I used qualitative interviews and surveys among faculty and students of UWG to learn about current perceptions of cigarette smoking. Participants included students ages [18-21] and faculty [middle aged and older]. I asked questions related to a scenario that focused on a woman smoking and recorded their response about the specific behavior. I found 2 key observations: generational and gender differences. My first observation highlighted different generations, concerning factors of who was considered more prevalent in smoking. A few interviewees agreed with generation being a significant factor due to them either being a part of that generation or know instances of such from family. Among younger interviewees, gender was a more significant factor for smoking being treated as a stigmatized behavior. When discussing gender within my surveys, I noticed how bad women became viewed when indulging in what's being classified now as cross sex behavior. The significance of this study is how gendered stereotypes shape an individual's perceptions of smoking and how it's becoming stigmatized.