INTRODUCTION

Those with personality disorders have a higher morbidity and mortality than the general population, which may be partially due to maladaptive health behaviors (e.g., smoking; Frankenbuch & Zanarini, 2004).

Studies suggest that there are personality correlates of smoking and nicotine dependence (impulsivity [Trull & Widiger, 2013], agreeableness [Terracciano & Costa, 2004], schizotypal traits [Trull, Waudby, & Sher, 2004], neuroticism [Zvolensky, Taha, Bono, & Goodwin, 2015]).

No studies to date have looked at the DSM-5 Alternative Model of Personality Disorders (AMPD; American Psychiatric Association, 2013) traits to see if they can predict smoking and nicotine dependence beyond the general level of personality functioning.

This current work will help us to understand the common vulnerability between both smoking/nicotine dependence and personality disorders.

The present study aimed to determine whether AMPD traits predicted smoking and/or nicotine dependence beyond the general level of personality functioning.

PARTICIPANTS

500 participants were recruited online via a Qualtrics panel (M_age = 52.28, SD_age = 15.74, 50% female)

MEASURES

Nicotine Dependence: The Fagerström Test for Nicotine Dependence (FTND) is a 6-item measure assessing dependence on nicotine (Heatherton, Kozlowski, Frecker, & Fagerström, 1991).

AMPD Criterion A: The Level of Personality Functioning Scale (LPFS) brief form is a 20-item measure assessing the core personality functions of identity, self-direction, empathy, and intimacy (Morrer, 2017).

AMPD Criterion B: The Personality Inventory for the DSM-5 short form is a 100-item measure assessing 25 personality trait facets that load onto 5 higher-order traits (Maples et al., 2015).

Risk Factor Variables

- Beck Depression Inventory (BDI; Beck, Steer, & Brown, 1996)
- Beck Anxiety Inventory (BAI; Beck, Epstein, Brown, & Steer, 1988)
- Past 3 month drug use
- Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT; Saunders, Aasland, Babor, de la Fuente, & Grant, 1993)

RESULTS

A multinomial logistic regression model was run in SPSS to determine the log odds of being a former smoker (vs. a current smoker) or a never smoker (vs. a current smoker).

A linear regression model was run in SPSS to predict the level of nicotine dependence from maladaptive personality traits.

The final models included demographic variables, personality variables, and risk factors.

DATA ANALYSIS

- A multinomial logistic regression model was run in SPSS to determine the log odds of being a former smoker (vs. a current smoker) or a never smoker (vs. a current smoker).
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- The final models included demographic variables, personality variables, and risk factors.

Conclusions

Results were not consistent with prior research on categorical personality disorders (e.g., Pulay et al., 2010) and normative personality traits that suggested the AMPD traits of disinhibition, antagonism, negative affectivity, and psychoticism might predict smoking behavior.

The sample in the current study was older than previous studies and had lower levels of maladaptive personality traits (Krueger, Derringer, Markon, Watson, & Skodol, 2012)

Former (vs. Current) Smoking Results

Increases in Antagonism may be associated with being a former smoker because smoking cessation may be accompanied by less “smoking-related social interactions that results in lower pro-social orientation over time” (Stephan, Sutin, Lumetti, Caille, & Terracciano, 2019, p. 192).

Never (vs. Current) Smoking Results

Increases in Detachment may be associated with being a current smoker because extraversion decreases over time in smokers (Stephan et al, 2019) and nicotine may be used to promote social functioning (Martin & Sayette, 2018).

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