

## **Moderator's Guide for IDI: Regular Cigarette Smokers**

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## **Adult Informed Consent**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) invites you to be in a study. The purpose of this study is to help CDC learn more about your opinions and ideas regarding tobacco use and related health effects. In addition, we would also like to ask your opinions on messages about the long-term health effects of e-cigarette use as well as their use as cessation tools; some of these health effects are still being studied or have yet to be explored by researchers and the evidence is not yet available or conclusive. Thus, some of the messages we will present to you have not yet been supported by scientific evidence and are intended to be purely exploratory. You will be asked to give your opinions on how information is presented, whether the information is easy to understand, and whether you think the information would be effective in changing behavior. Please feel free to ask questions as I explain the study.

If you agree to participate, you will be interviewed by a trained moderator. The total time spent in the interview will be approximately 30 minutes. You will receive points that can be redeemed for other items, such as Amazon gift cards. The information will be used to help CDC develop advertisements and materials for people about smoking and the health consequences of tobacco use.

The information you give us will be kept private. Your name will not appear in the report. All notes and materials will be kept in a secure location on a password-protected server. No one outside this project will have access to the materials, notes and other items. Materials will be deleted after the study. CDC will treat data in a secure manner and will not disclose unless otherwise compelled by law. The interview poses no physical risks to you. If you begin to feel uncomfortable at any time, you can refuse to answer questions or leave the interview. There is no commercial intent. You will not be asked to purchase anything.

There will be observers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and its contractor, The PlowShare Group, watching the interview via a secure, password protected site on the internet. A video recording will be made of the stream.

Your participation is voluntary. If you have questions about this project, please call Carol Haney, the project's principal investigator, at 802-254-2117. Your click on the button "Accept" below indicates that you understand the above and agree to participate in this group.

## **INTRODUCTION and RULES OF ENGAGEMENT**

Hello! Welcome! I'm \_\_\_\_\_ and I'll be leading our interview.

I am looking forward to talking with you and getting your feedback. My job is to understand your personal opinions and ideas - positive or negative - so please be honest in your responses. Remember, there are no right or wrong answers. No one will judge your answers.

When answering my questions, please fully describe your thoughts, elaborate, and be as specific as possible. If you like or don't like something, please explain **WHAT** you like or don't like about it and **WHY**. All answers are acceptable and criticism is encouraged!  
– So let's get started.

## **DISCUSSION GUIDE (regular cigarette smokers)**

### ***Tobacco Use Behavior & Perceptions***

1. I'd like to learn more about you so let's start with an introduction. Please tell me where you're from and a hobby of yours.
2. Tell me how you started smoking regular cigarettes – {PROMPT} were you with friends?
3. Tell me about why you smoke regular cigarettes – when you have an urge to smoke regular cigarettes, where do you go to smoke your regular cigarettes?
4. Tell me about your general smoking routine—do you smoke regular cigarettes with others, or are you alone? Do you smoke regular cigarettes when you're having a drink? Do you have special times during the day when you smoke regular cigarettes?

### ***Quit Motivation***

5. Do you want to quit smoking regular cigarettes?  
{MODERATOR probe on the following questions if the response is merely yes :}
  - How important is it to you to quit smoking regular cigarettes?
  - Why do you want to quit smoking regular cigarettes?
  - Do you want to quit smoking regular cigarettes all the time, or does the desire to quit smoking regular cigarettes come and go?
6. Thinking back to the most recent time you tried to quit smoking regular cigarettes, walk me through the process you went through. Did you quit regular cigarettes “cold turkey” all at once without medication, or did you use medication such as Zyban, Chantix, nicotine patch or nicotine gum? Did you reduce the number of regular cigarettes you smoked? {MODERATOR: Probe on whether or not they cut back on their regular cigarettes and didn't quit or they cut back and had a successful quit}
7. Have you ever used e-cigarettes to help quit smoking regular cigarettes? If not, do you think you will in the future?
8. In your opinion, is there a difference between cutting down the amount of regular cigarettes you smoke and quitting regular cigarettes completely? Why/why not?

9. Do you think you're more afraid of dying from a tobacco related disease, or more afraid of living with a tobacco related disease? Which is worse, to you?

### ***Messaging Feedback***

Now I am going to read to you and show you some of the messages you saw in the earlier survey about the consequences of regular cigarettes.

{MESSAGE TEXT FILL}

### ***Going through each message:***

10. How does this message make you feel? {Probe: de-motivated; shamed; lectured; motivated; energized; afraid}
11. Are there any words or phrases that you think are especially attention-getting or scary to you?
12. Were there any phrases that put you off or that you thought were not effective or had unintended effects?
13. Do you believe this message? Why or why not?
14. What additional information would you need in order to more strongly believe this message?

### ***Message comparison:***

15. Looking over the different messages we have discussed, which is the most effective to make you want to quit smoking regular cigarettes completely? Which is the least effective?
16. What makes it most effective?
17. What makes it least effective?

### ***Exploratory Questions***

Before we conclude, we have just a few more exploratory questions for you about your opinions about the potential health effects of e-cigarette use. Please note that the messages concerning the long-term health effects of e-cigarettes or their efficacy as cessation tools are still being studied or have yet to be explored by researchers and the evidence is not yet available or conclusive. Thus, the messages we will present to you have not yet been supported by scientific evidence and are intended to be purely

exploratory. Our primary goal when presenting these hypothetical messages to you is to gauge your opinions on how information is presented, whether the information is easy to understand, and whether you think the information would be effective in changing behavior.

18. Do you believe that your decision to smoke regular cigarettes or use e-cigarettes can affect you for a lifetime?

19. Do you believe that nicotine exposure can permanently damage the parts of your brain that affect your memory and judgment? Tell me more about that.

20. Do you believe that nicotine in e-cigarettes and cigarettes could increase the risk for addiction to other harmful drugs like cocaine?

{prompt}

Tell me more about why you think that.