

## Genetics may determine who becomes a heavy smoker

*The following is an excerpt.*

Individuals who pick up smoking as teenagers have a much higher risk of becoming heavy smokers as adults. And for some, the risk is even greater – depending on their genetics.

A team of researchers from the United States, the U.K. and New Zealand utilized previous research on genetics and smoking to develop a genetic risk profile for individuals who eventually become heavy smokers.

The research revealed individuals with a high-genetic risk for smoking were much more likely to become heavy smokers as adults, but only if they had tried cigarettes as teenagers. Those who were determined to have low-genetic risk were much less likely to progress into heavy smoking, even if they had tried cigarettes when they were younger.

**View the original article here: [Genetics may determine who becomes a heavy smoker](#)**