

PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR EYSENCK BOOK AD

Do statistics prove that cigarette smoking is a cause of lung cancer and heart disease?

No. Says Eysenck: "Statistics are interesting, important and suggestive first step...but they cannot in the nature of the case be more than suggestive. We need a biological link and this only can be provided with proper experimentation."

(p. 53)

What about a biological link? Is there conclusive evidence, other than statistical, to prove the case against smoking?

No. "No experimental, physiological, biochemical evidence of the carcinogenic effects of cigarette smoking, but only statistical evidence."

(p. 52)

Has cigarette smoke ever produced in animals the kind of lung cancer linked in humans with smoking?

No. "Attempts to produce lung cancer in rats and other animals by blowing cigarette smoke at them for long periods of time have not in fact succeeded."

(p. 52)

Do the widely publicized reports on the health implications of smoking tell the whole story?

No. "What is communicated should be well established facts, not statistical surmises based on largely unproven and sometimes even improbable assumptions...purely statistical calculations."

(p. 157)

Has any new evidence against cigarettes been reported in recent years?

No. "We should...initiate new research, research that does not simply duplicate what has already been done... Duplication becomes even harder to understand when...no efforts are being made to study the influence of constitutional factors."

(p. 137)

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What about the constitutional factors?

Evsenck's theory: "That lung cancer and smoking are related, not because smoking causes lung cancer, but because the same people predisposed genetically to develop lung cancer ((are)) also predisposed genetically to take up smoking."

(p. 15)

"Persons of an extraverted temperament are both more likely to smoke cigarettes and to develop cancer than are persons of an introverted nature."

(p. 152)

"Constitutional factors in general and personality factors in particular are correlated with proneness to cancer."

(p. 117)

"Coronary disease ((is)) statistically related to smoking almost as strongly as lung cancer and it is certainly interesting to find that both diseases are significantly related to a common personality trait, namely extraversion."

(p. 115)

Is smoking a health hazard?

"The case has not been established beyond any doubt. The evidence in favor of the hypothesis that smoking causes cancer is certainly very strong indeed, but it is equally certainly not conclusive."

(p. 139)

Anecdotal material which might be worked into copy (or boxes, or whatever): smoking fathers, beginning page 64; smoker profile, page 103.

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