

PEER REVIEW HISTORY

BMJ Open publishes all reviews undertaken for accepted manuscripts. Reviewers are asked to complete a checklist review form (<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/site/about/resources/checklist.pdf>) and are provided with free text boxes to elaborate on their assessment. These free text comments are reproduced below.

ARTICLE DETAILS

TITLE (PROVISIONAL)	Prevalence of Cigarette and Waterpipe Tobacco Smoking among Adults in Three Eastern Mediterranean Countries: A cross-sectional household survey
AUTHORS	Nakkash, Rima; Khader, Yousef; Chalak, Ali; Abla, Ruba; Abu-Rmeileh, Niveen; Mostafa, Aya; Jawad, Mohammed; Lee, Ji-Hyun; Salloum, Ramzi

VERSION 1 – REVIEW

REVIEWER	Praveen S Jodalli Yenepoya Dental College
REVIEW RETURNED	28-Sep-2021

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>Introduction: in the first line reference number is wrong. no mention about the hypothesis.</p> <p>Methods: The questionnaire validation is not mentioned. Inclusion and exclusion criteria is not mentioned. Any bias incurred has to be mentioned.</p> <p>results: In line 32. The prevalence of 28.2% has to be mentioned as in Palestine.</p> <p>Appraisal: Title : appropriate Abstract: Informative and comprehensive Introduction: Meaningful and systematic Methods: appropriate Results: based on objectives Discussion : Meaningful , Limitations of study mentioned.</p>
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REVIEWER	zahra khorrami Kerman University of Medical Sciences, Epidemiology & Biostatistics
REVIEW RETURNED	08-Oct-2021

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>It is a very well-written work for the Prevalence of Cigarette and Waterpipe Tobacco Smoking among Adults in Three Eastern Mediterranean Countries. However, some revisions are necessary to add more information or provide some adjustments in the manuscript and strengthen the quality of the paper.</p> <p>Comments: Abstract: - Please write the year of study in the first line of design, setting and participants in the method sections of abstract. - Add p-value number for "Cigarette smokers were more likely to be male, younger, and with lower educational attainment across the three countries. Water pipe smokers were more likely to be young adults across the three countries." in the result section.</p>
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	<p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add the year of study for reference number 2," Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death as well as a main risk factor for cancer, cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases". Is this the latest information reported on this topic by WHO? <p>Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can you report a standardized prevalence within the different countries? - Details of the ethical approval should be presented in the Methods. <p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The title in Table 1- 4 is incomplete. Please, add the information about the time of study. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is there no reference for the fourth paragraph of the discussion? - Discuss the results in the context of other similar studies! Avoid repetition of results. - Based on these findings, what recommendations for reducing the prevalence of cigarette and waterpipe tobacco smoking among adults in three Eastern Mediterranean Countries?
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VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Reviewer: 1
 Dr. Praveen S Jodalli, Yenepoya Dental College

Dear Dr. Praveen,

Thank you for taking the time to review our manuscript. We respond below to your comments, point by point, and we have applied the necessary changes to the manuscript (tracked) when indicated in the response.

Introduction: in the first line reference number is wrong. no mention about the hypothesis.

Response 1: Reference number in the first line was fixed. As for the hypothesis, our study is a descriptive study of smoking prevalence and there was no intent to test any hypotheses.

Methods: The questionnaire validation is not mentioned. Inclusion and exclusion criteria is not mentioned. Any bias incurred has to be mentioned.

Response 2: Regarding questionnaire validation, please note that our questions were informed by prior tobacco use prevalence questionnaires (cite ITC Project, PATH Study) and were selected by an expert panel. The questionnaire was pretested, and pilot tested prior to data collection, this has been added to the methods section. Inclusion and exclusion criteria are already mentioned in the methods section under subtitle data source, 2nd sentence.

Results: In line 32. The prevalence of 28.2% has to be mentioned as in Palestine.

Response 3: This has been added and the reference to Palestine has changed to refer to West Bank as per the request of the Editor.

Reviewer: 2

Dr. Zahra Khorrami, Kerman University of Medical Sciences.

Dear Dr. Zahra,

Thank you for taking the time to review our manuscript. We respond below to your comments, point by point, and we have applied the necessary changes to the manuscript (tracked) when indicated in the response.

Abstract:

Please write the year of study in the first line of design, setting and participants in the method sections of abstract.

Response 1: Year of the study, setting and participants have been added to the methods section of abstract.

Add p-value number for "Cigarette smokers were more likely to be male, younger, and with lower educational attainment across the three countries. Water pipe smokers were more likely to be young adults across the three countries." in the result section.

Response 2: Thank you for your comment. We amended the sentence above to refer to the various p values.

Introduction:

- Add the year of study for reference number 2," Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death as well as a main risk factor for cancer, cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases". Is this the latest information reported on this topic by WHO?

Response 3: Thank you for noting this, we added the latest WHO report as a reference to the sentence.

Methods:

- Can you report a standardized prevalence within the different countries?

Response 4: Standardized prevalence rate are added and presented in table 2 We present rates for crude and age-standardized prevalence rates (ASR) of current cigarette smoking, current waterpipe smoking, dual smoking, and any smoking in a new table 2. We removed the figure to avoid any redundancy.

- Details of the ethical approval should be presented in the Methods.

Response 5: Details of ethical approval have been provided in section titled "Ethics Approval". \

Results:

- The title in Table 1- 4 is incomplete. Please, add the information about the time of study.

Response 6: The year of the study was added to the table titles.

Discussion:

- Is there no reference for the fourth paragraph of the discussion?

Response 7: Thank you for noting this. We added a reference in this paragraph where appropriate.

- Discuss the results in the context of other similar studies! Avoid repetition of results.

Response 8: We added to the discussion section as suggested and rewrote some sections. It should read better now that we ensured that results are not repeated.

- Based on these findings, what recommendations for reducing the prevalence of cigarette and waterpipe tobacco smoking among adults in three Eastern Mediterranean Countries?

Response 9: We rewrote the last paragraph under conclusion and introduced the recommendations from the authors

VERSION 2 – REVIEW

REVIEWER	zahra khorrami Kerman University of Medical Sciences, Epidemiology & Biostatistics
REVIEW RETURNED	15-Dec-2021

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- In line 4 in introduction- Change the sentence " One notable example has been the Eastern Mediterranean region ..." to " One notable example has been the Eastern Mediterranean region(EMR) ..." and use "the EMR" in the following.- Change the sentence " The World Health Organization (WHO) Framework ..." in the second paragraph from the introduction to "The WHO Framework ...". <p>Methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- In line 14 in the methods section: Change "Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS)" to "GATS".- Use unique terminology in all over text of manuscript, for example: Palestine or west bank.- Add a reference number for sentence "for the purpose of calculation of age-standardized prevalence rates, the WHO World Standard Population which reflects the average age structure of the world's population expected over the next generation, from 2000 to 2025 was used." in the statistical analysis sections.- How much missing data was there?- The authors should indicate whether ORs in Tables 4 & 5 multivariable or univariate results? And if they're not reported univariate describe the reason.
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	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add a reference number for sentence " We compare here our findings with previously reported prevalence rates in the three countries, bearing in mind that the methodologies of cited studies might not be comparable "in the discussion section. - <p>Conclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not use references in the results section. You should report the main results of your research in this section, please rewrite the conclusion section.
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VERSION 2 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Response 1: We mentioned Palestine (West Bank only), as suggested, in the objectives of the abstract and then again in the introduction last paragraph.

*Thank you for adding the non-response rates as requested. It would be preferable if these could be updated to indicate absolute numbers of non-responders as well as %s, if possible.

Response 2: The numbers of non-responders was added.

Reviewer: 2

Dr. Zahra Khorrani, Kerman University of Medical Sciences

Comments to the Author:

Dear Dr. Zahra,

Thank you again for reviewing our manuscript and providing further comments.

Introduction

- In line 4 in introduction- Change the sentence " One notable example has been the Eastern Mediterranean region ..." to " One notable example has been the Eastern Mediterranean region (EMR) ..." and use "the EMR" in the following.

Response 1: The suggestion was implemented.

- Change the sentence " The World Health Organization (WHO) Framework ..." in the second paragraph from the introduction to "The WHO Framework ...".

Response 2: The suggestion was implemented

Methods

- In line 14 in the methods section: Change "Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS)" to "GATS".

Response 3: The suggestion was implemented.

- Use unique terminology in all over text of manuscript, for example: Palestine or west bank.

Response 4: we fixed the sentence that mentioned Palestine and changed it to West bank.

- Add a reference number for sentence “for the purpose of calculation of age-standardized prevalence rates, the WHO World Standard Population which reflects the average age structure of the world’s population expected over the next generation, from 2000 to 2025 was used.” in the statistical analysis sections.

Response 5: Reference was added.

- How much missing data was there?

Response 6: The missing data are minimal (<1%) because of the quality control and assurance procedures implemented. This sentence was added to the methods section, in the paragraph under data collection.

- The authors should indicate whether ORs in Tables 4 & 5 multivariable or univariate results? And if they’re not reported univariate describe the reason.

Response 7: The ORs in tables 4&5 are adjusted. We added that to the table.

Discussion:

- Add a reference number for sentence” We compare here our findings with previously reported prevalence rates in the three countries, bearing in mind that the methodologies of cited studies might not be comparable “in the discussion section.

Response 8: References were added.

Conclusion:

- Do not use references in the results section. You should report the main results of your research in this section, please rewrite the conclusion section.

Response 9: Conclusion was amended

Reviewer: 2

Competing interests of Reviewer: No competing interest.