Attitudes towards cessation and smoking ban law enforcement in Greece

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Background & objectives
The smoking ban law has been successfully implemented in Greece since 2019, however data on smoking status post implementation and views on the measures for the smoking ban law enforcement do not yet exist. Our study aimed to estimate smoking status in Greece and assess attitudes towards cessation and views on smoking ban law implementation.

Methods
Sample was representative of the adult Greek population according to sex and age based on national census data. Participants reported their smoking status, attitudes towards cessation and views on smoking ban law enforcement. Data collection took place on February 2020 using computer assisted telephone interviewing by Kapa Research. Differences between groups were assessed with chi-squared tests. Analysis was performed in STATA 13 and graphs were created in Microsoft Excel.

Definitions of smoking behavior
- Daily smokers: smoking at least 1 or 2 cigarettes / day
- Occasional smokers: smoking less than 7 cigarettes / week
- Ex-smokers: ceased smoking for more than 6 months
- Never-smokers: have never smoked

Results
1976 adults participated in the survey. Smoking prevalence was 28%. Men presented a slightly higher smoking prevalence compared to women and a higher ex-smoking prevalence; women presented a higher never-smoking prevalence (Figure 1)

Figure 1 Smoking prevalence by sex

Most of the population considered the measures for the smoking ban implementation positive; differences were observed between smokers and non-smokers (Figure 4)

Figure 4 Opinion on smoking ban law enforcement by smoking status

Conclusions
Significant differences were observed between sexes regarding smoking status and attitudes towards cessation. 3/4 of the adult Greek population consider the measures of the smoking ban enforcement positive.

Abbreviations
DK/NA: Do not know/ No answer

References
1. CDC. Tobacco glossary https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/tobacco/tobacco_glossary.htm