

Smoking prevalence in Greece: the role of age and sex

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Background & objectives

The smoking ban law has been successfully implemented in Greece since 2019, however data on smoking prevalence post implementation do not yet exist. The current study aimed to estimate current smoking prevalence in Greece.

Methods

The sample was representative of the adult Greek population according to sex and age based on national census data. Participants reported their smoking status and use of tobacco and novel tobacco products. 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 smoked¹

Results

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

Majority of smokers smoked exclusively 1 product, mainly combustible or roll-your-own (RYO) cigarettes (Figure 3)

Figure 1 Smoking prevalence by sex

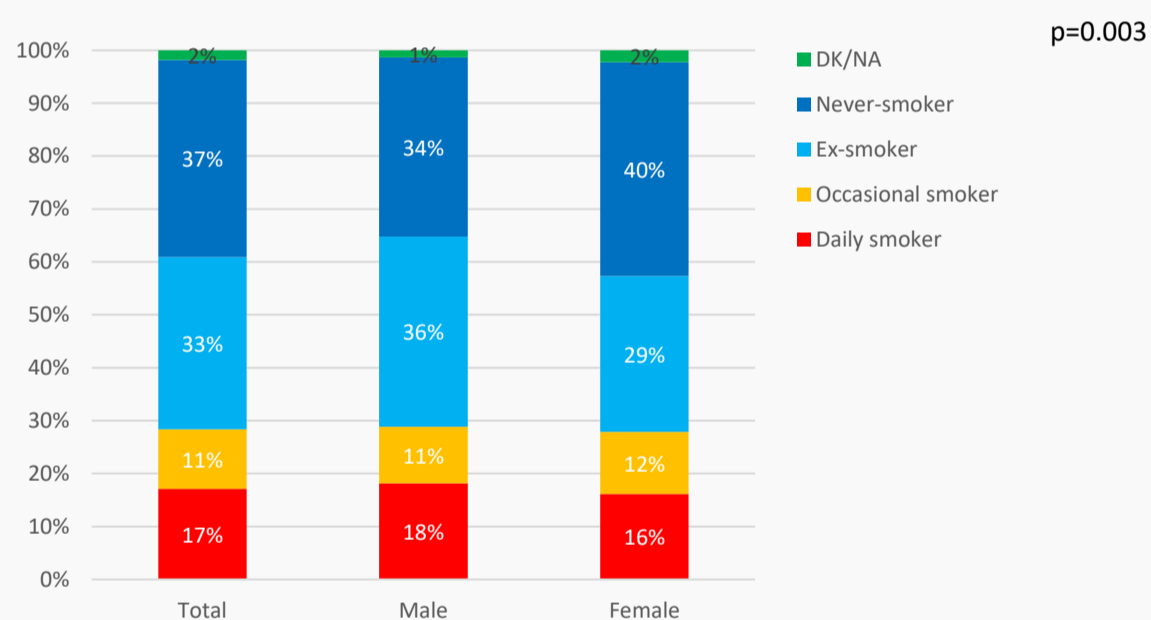
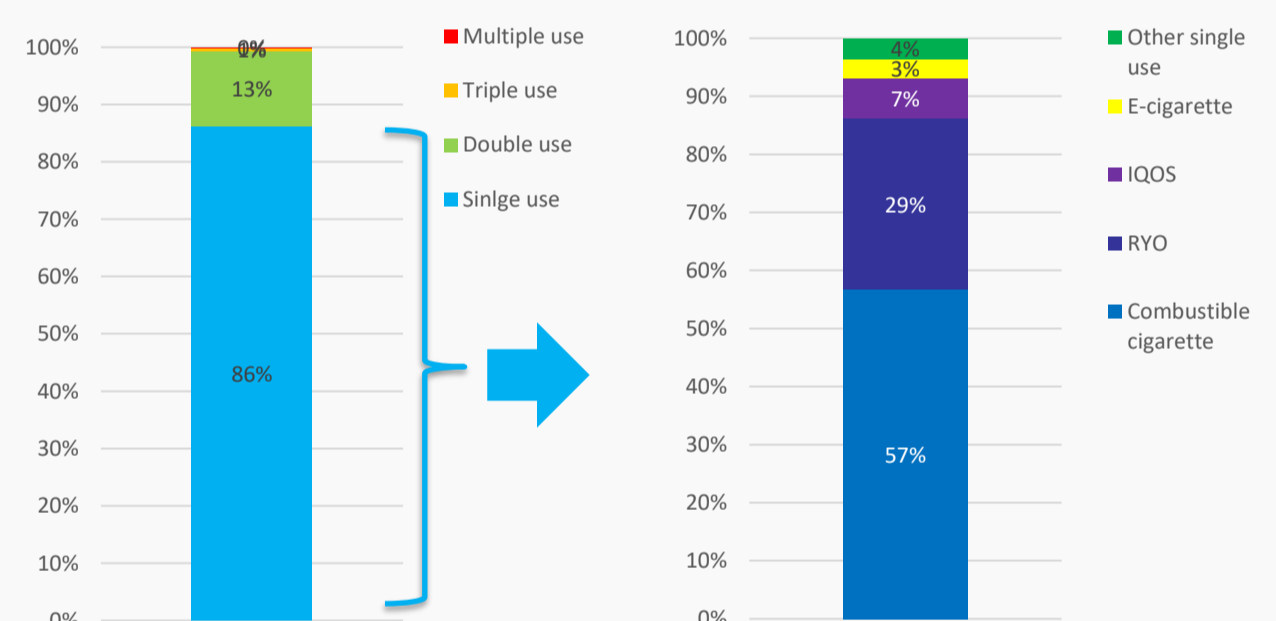


Figure 3 Smoking products



Differences in smoking prevalence were observed between ages, with highest in 35-44-year-olds and lowest in 65+ year-olds (Figure 2)

More women than men used exclusively combustible cigarettes. Also, more 18-34-year-olds used exclusively RYO while more 35-64-year-olds combustible cigarettes (Figure 4)

Figure 2 Smoking prevalence by age

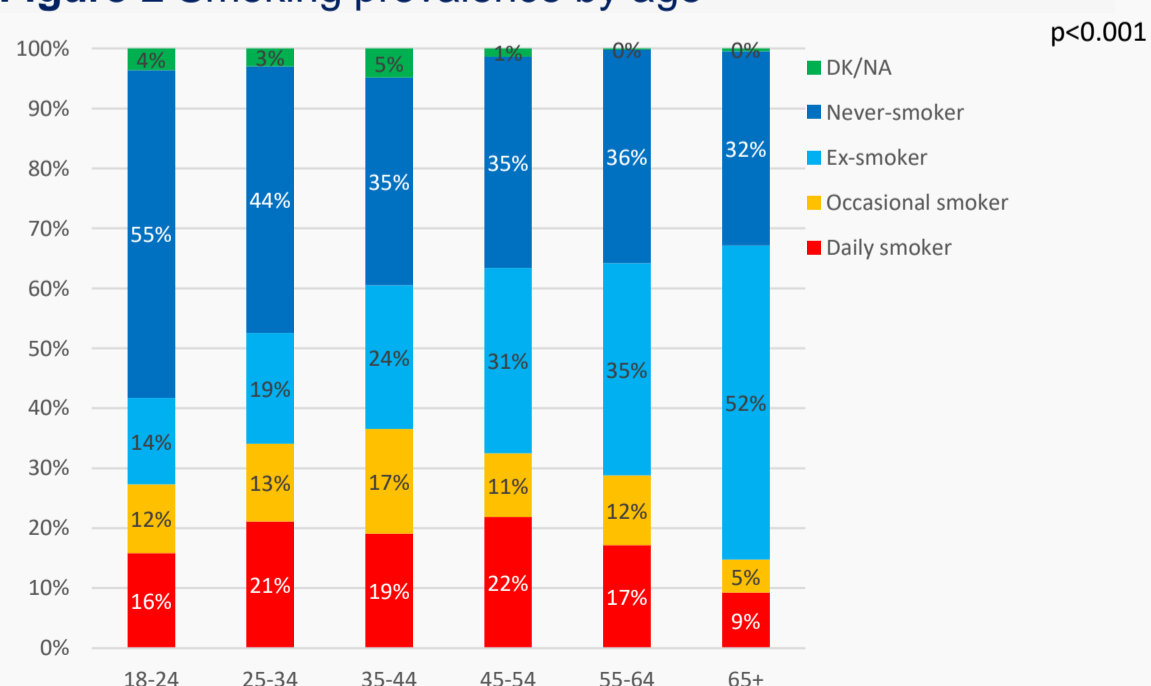
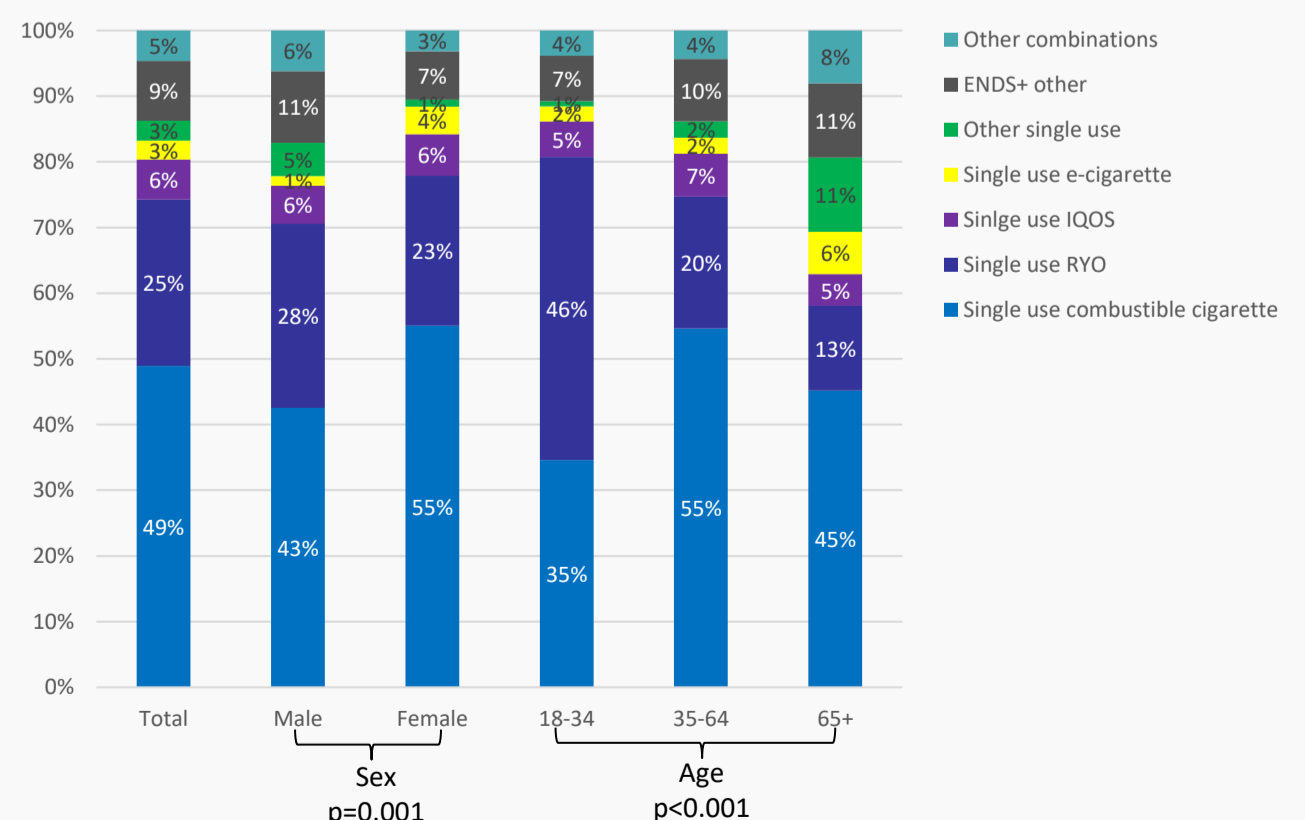


Figure 4 Product use by sex and age



Conclusions

Significant differences in smoking status and products use were observed between sexes and ages. Preventive interventions should be tailored to address those differences.

Abbreviations

DK/NA: Do not know/ No answer

References

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