

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.

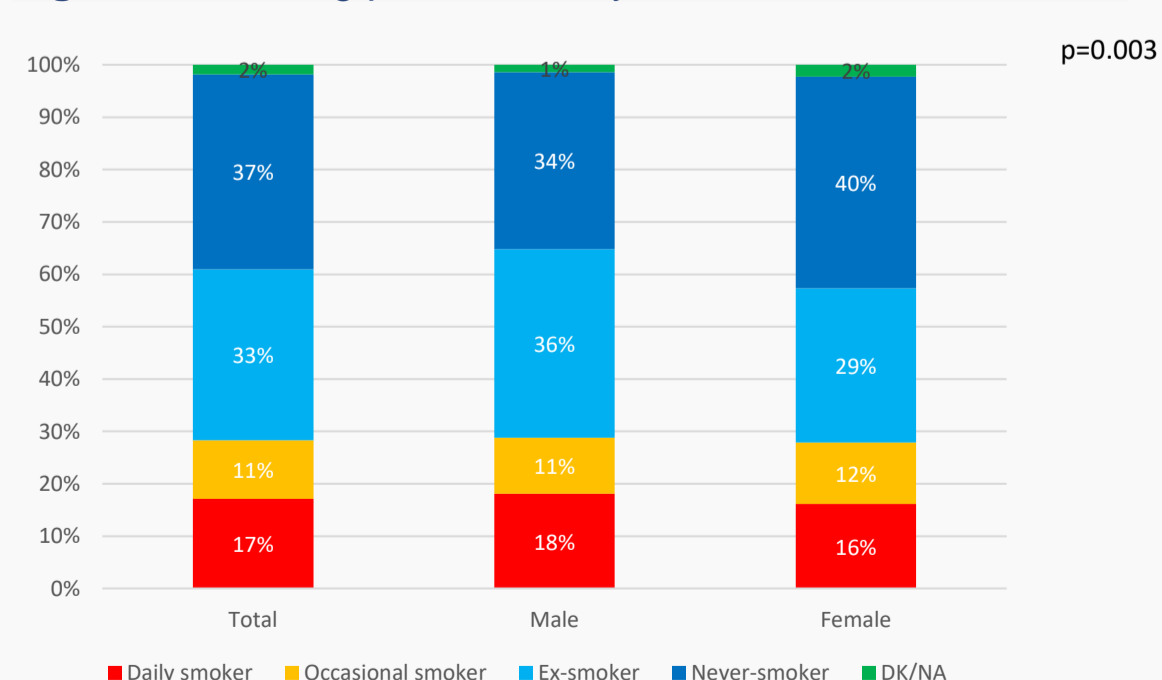
Definitions of smoking behavior

- *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 smoked¹

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



Abbreviations

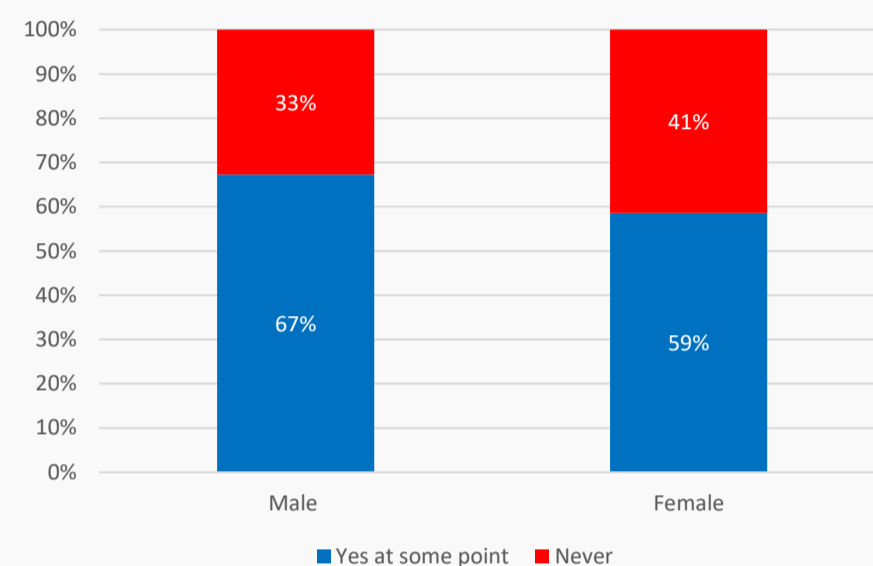
DK/NA: Do not know/ No answer

References

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

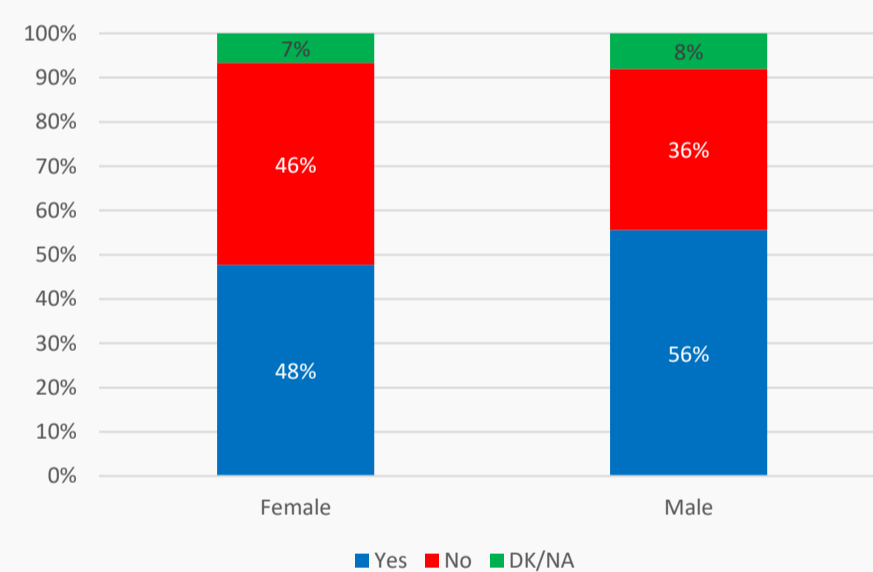
Differences between sexes were observed regarding history of smoking cessation, with it being more frequent in men vs women (Figure 2)

Figure 2 History of smoking cessation by sex



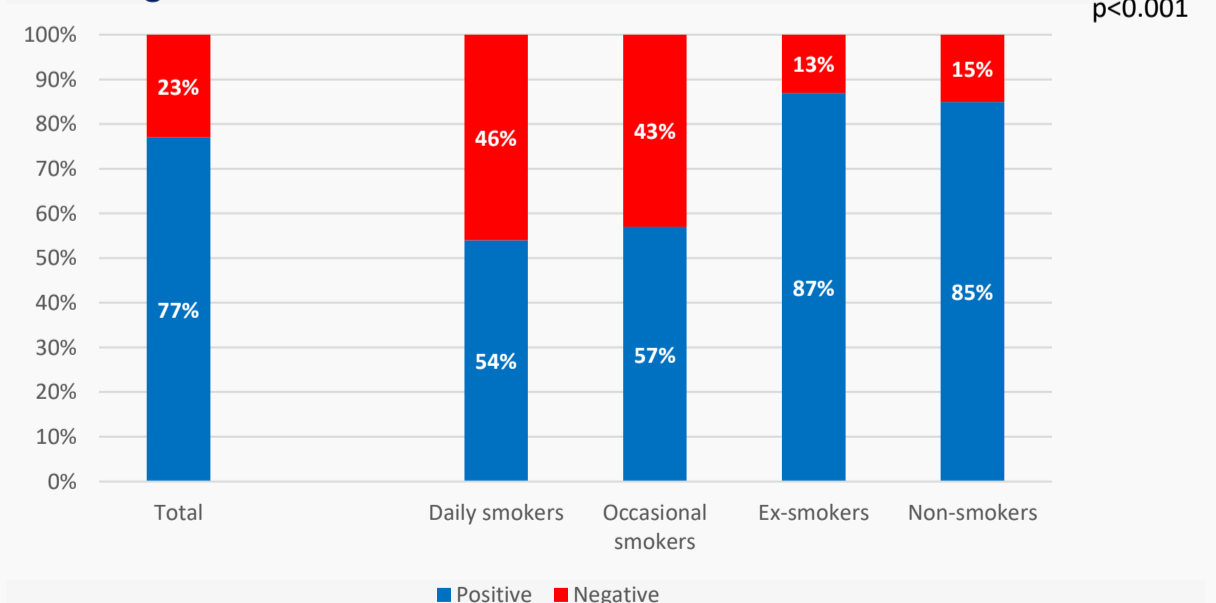
Intention to quit smoking in the future was lower in women compared to men while men depicted higher ex-smoking prevalence compared to women (Figures 1 & 3)

Figure 3 Intention to quit smoking 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.