Data Article

Dataset on perception among male secondary school students on underage smoking in Jordan

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A B S T R A C T

The World Health Organization (WHO) revealed in 2015 that the percentage of smokers in Jordan is one of the highest in the world, reaching 70.2% among males and consequently ranking first in the Middle Eastern region and second in the world. Cigarettes are the most widely abused substance among school students in Jordan. This poses severe health risks to the public. The WHO emphasizes that one of the most important public health goals related to smoking is to reduce its harmful effects on the individual as well as society and the prevention and treatment of injuries. This article explores the nature of smoking among school students, binge smoking, and the consequences of smoking. Secondary school students undergo developmental transitions, and this comes with debilitating effects such as the risky use of cigarettes, which adversely affects their health and educational achievements. This article comprises data obtained from 1166 participants (ages 14 –17 years) from selected schools in Jerash, near Amman, Jordan. For data collection, a youth questionnaire on underage smoking was utilized. The article presents information on the participants' smoking demographic. Analyses of the data can provide insights into the reasons for the smoking habits of the youth, the negative effects of smoking on school students, strategies to reduce smoking consumption, level of consumption of daily smokers, health issues caused by smoking, the prevalence of smoking, the effect of smoker parents on stimulating their children, and common smoking areas. The data will be useful for institutions dealing with prevalent health problems in society (Smoking causes health...
1. Data description

The data presented below was obtained through a structured questionnaire. The number of respondents involved in the survey was 1166. Fig. 1 shows the frequency of distribution by age: 270 (23%) — 14 years, 311 (27%) — 15 years, 322 (28%) — 16 years, and 263 (22%) — 17 years. Among the respondents, there were 914 (78.3%) smokers and 252 (21.7%) non-smokers (Table 1). Table 2 represents data on the frequency of cigarette consumption. Data derived in relation to the question ‘Does smoking cause health problems?’ shows that 876 respondents agreed and 38 disagreed (Table 8). Table 9 illustrates the data collected on the prevalence of smoking, based on the age of the smokers, to check whether it has increased, decreased, or remained at the same level. Table 3 illustrates data regarding the question ‘Do your parents smoke?’ The respondents also answered questions about the reasons for youth taking up the habit of smoking, and the most common answers were “Parental stimulation,” “To appear strong,” and “Family problems” (Table 4). The collected data revealed that the most common areas for smoking among school students were places around the school (Table 5), and the most common answer for the negative consequences of smoking was “Unpleasant odor” [6]. Table 7 shows that the most common strategy considered to reduce cigarette smoking was “Educate students in schools about the harmful effects of smoking.” The researcher relied on the following educational literature in writing the research [1–7].

2. Experimental design, materials, and methods

2.1. Research design

The research adopted a descriptive survey design to evaluate the dataset on the perception among male secondary school students on underage smoking in Jordan. This dataset included 1166 students from selected secondary schools in Jerash, Jordan. Fig. 1 Distribution of respondents by age.
2.2. Instruments

The researcher adopted the use of a questionnaire to collect data for this survey. This questionnaire had 11 questions including 7 specific questions and 4 open-ended questions based on the responses to the specific questions. The first question dealt with respondents’ socio-demographic characteristics (Appendix).

2.3. Instrument validity and reliability

The questionnaire was checked by experts for proper language, clarity, relevance, and comprehensiveness of the content, and a pilot survey was conducted to ensure that the questionnaire yielded consistent finding. This included a pretesting survey among male secondary school students in Jordan which is not included in the research sample to ensure accuracy in data.

2.4. Data sample

The data sample consisted of 1166, were chosen at random from all secondary schools.

2.5. Data analyses

The researcher coded the questionnaire questions and their answers, by number, according to the number of options available for each question. This was entered into an Excel sheet, and the data was analyzed using SPSS for frequency and percentage.

For instance, the first question was coded Q1, and the answers were coded as follows:
14 years was coded (1), 15 years was coded (2), 16 years was coded (3), and 17 years was coded (4).

A similar process was followed for the rest of the questions and their corresponding data.

2.6. Research questions

The data attempted to answer the following questions:

1. Why prompts underage male secondary school students in Jordan to smoke?
2. What are male secondary school students’ most preferred places to smoke?
3. What are the negative effects of smoking on underage male secondary school students?
4. What are the optimal strategies to reduce cigarette consumption in male secondary school students?
5. Does smoking cause health problems in male secondary school students?
6. Is the number of cigarettes consumed per day by male secondary school students increasing, decreasing, or the same?

2.7. Dataset

The survey data was collected as presented in the following tables.

Table 1
The frequency of smokers according to the respondents’ ages.

| Variable | Do you smoke? | Total |
|----------|---------------|-------|
|          | Yes | No |       |
| Gender   |     |    |       |
| Male     | 914 | 252| 1166  |
| Age      |     |    |       |
| 14 years | 130 | 140| 270   |
| 15 years | 211 | 100| 311   |
| 16 years | 317 |  5 | 322   |
| 17 years | 256 |  7 | 263   |
| Total    | 914 | 252| 1166  |

According to Table 1 the number of smokers (914) and non-smokers (252) from 1166 respondents, Distributed for ages (14–17 years). The researcher emphasizes the effect of smoking on the academic achievement of students as confirmed by a research [1,2].

Table 2
The frequency of cigarette consumption based on the respondents’ ages.

| Variable | Frequency of smoking | Total |
|----------|----------------------|-------|
|          | 1–5 cigarettes per day | 6–10 cigarettes per day | 11–20 cigarettes per day | Over 20 cigarettes a day |       |
| Age      |                     |                   |                     |                         |       |
| 14 years | 125                 | 5                  | 0                    | 0                      | 130    |
| 15 years | 200                 | 10                 | 1                    | 0                      | 211    |
| 16 years | 296                 | 14                 | 7                    | 0                      | 317    |
| 17 years | 200                 | 15                 | 40                   | 1                      | 256    |
| Total    | 821                 | 44                 | 48                   | 1                      | 914    |

According to Table 2 the number of smokers 1–5 cigarettes per day (125) 14 years, (200) 15 years, (296) 16 years and (200) 17 years. The researcher emphasizes that smoking causes health problems that negatively affect the achievement and learning of students in schools as confirmed by a researcher [3–5].

Table 3
The data collected on the parents’ smoking habits based on the respondents’ ages.

| Variable | Do your parents smoke? | Total |
|----------|------------------------|-------|
|          | My father smokes | My mother smokes |       |
|          | Yes | No | Yes | No |       |
| Age      |     |    |     |    |       |
| 14 years | 120 | 10 |  4  | 126| 130   |
| 15 years | 198 | 13 |  3  | 208| 211   |
| 16 years | 302 | 15 |  6  | 311| 317   |
| 17 years | 236 | 20 |  1  | 255| 256   |
| Total    | 856 | 58 | 14  | 900| 914   |
According to Table 3 the number of parents who smoke (130) 14 years, (211) 15 years, (317) 16 years and (256) 17 years.

2.8. The data questions

What prompts underage male secondary school students in Jordan to smoke?

Table 4
The data regarding reasons for cigarette smoking among youths.

| Reason                | Frequency/(%) | Rank |
|-----------------------|---------------|------|
| To appear strong      | 860 (27%)     | 1st  |
| Parental stimulation  | 700 (22%)     | 2nd  |
| Family problems       | 600 (18%)     | 3rd  |
| Increased self-confidence | 550 (17%) | 4th  |
| Peer pressure         | 500 (16%)     | 5th  |

According to Table 4 (27 %) of the respondents’ smoke “To appear strong”, (22%) “Parental stimulation”, (18%) family problems, (17%) “Increased self-confidence”, and (16%) Peer pressure.

What are your most preferred places to smoke?

Table 5
The data regarding preferred smoking places.

| Preferred places              | Frequency/(%) | Rank |
|-------------------------------|---------------|------|
| Around the school             | 900 (30%)     | 1st  |
| In the market                 | 850 (29%)     | 2nd  |
| In parks and cafes            | 740 (25%)     | 3rd  |
| In the garden of the house    | 400 (14%)     | 4th  |
| At home                       | 70 (2%)       | 5th  |

According to Table 5 (30 %) of the respondents’ preferred smoking places “Around the school”, (29%) “In the market”. (25%) In parks and cafes, (14%) “In the garden of the house”, and (2%) At home.

What are the negative effects of smoking on underage male secondary school students?

Table 6
The data collected on the negative consequences of cigarette consumption.

| Negative Consequences                  | Frequency/(%) | Rank |
|----------------------------------------|---------------|------|
| Unpleasant odors                        | 910 (18%)     | 1st  |
| Family problems                         | 820 (17%)     | 2nd  |
| Constant headaches when not smoking    | 800 (16%)     | 3rd  |
| Poor concentration in school            | 720 (14%)     | 4th  |
| Tooth decay                             | 610 (12%)     | 5th  |
| Sustained health problems               | 600 (12%)     | 6th  |
| Severe cough                            | 540 (11%)     | 7th  |

According to Table 6 (18 %) of the respondents’ negative consequences of cigarette consumption “Unpleasant odors”, (17%) “Family problems”. (16%) “Constant headaches when not smoking”, (14%) “Poor concentration in school”, (12%) “Tooth decay”, (12%) “Sustained health problems” and (11%)
“Severe cough”. The researcher emphasizes the effect of smoking on the students’ focus in the classroom.

**What are the optimal strategies to reduce cigarette smoking in male secondary school students?**

| Approaches to decrease cigarette use                                      | Frequency/(%) | Rank |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------|
| Educate students in schools about the harmful effects of smoking       | 600 (30%)     | 1st  |
| Activate the role of the media in raising awareness on the harmful effects of smoking | 485 (24%)     | 2nd  |
| Raising parents’ awareness of the causes of smoking                    | 479 (24%)     | 3rd  |
| Prohibition of smoking in public places                               | 436 (22%)     | 4th  |

According to Table 7 (30%) of the respondents’ strategies to reduce smoking consumption “Educate students in schools about the harmful effects of smoking”, (24%) “Activate the role of the media in raising awareness on the harmful effects of smoking”. (24%) “Raising parents’ awareness of the causes of smoking and (22%) “Prohibition of smoking in public places”.

**Does smoking cause health problems in male secondary school students?**

| Variable | Does smoking cause health problems? | Total |
|----------|-------------------------------------|-------|
|          | YES | NO |                               |
| Age 14 years | 125 | 5  | 130   |
| 15 years     | 201 | 10 | 211   |
| 16 years     | 305 | 12 | 317   |
| 17 years     | 245 | 11 | 256   |
| Total        | 876 | 38 | 914   |

According to Table 8 the number of smoking cause health problems sure (125) 14 years, (201) 15 years, (305) 16 years and (245) 17 years.

**Is the number of cigarettes consumed per day by male secondary school students increasing, decreasing, or the same?**

| Variable | Prevalence of smoking | Total |
|----------|----------------------|-------|
|          | Increased | Decreased | Stayed the same |
| Age 14 years | 70     | 20     | 40    | 130   |
| 15 years | 180     | 15     | 16    | 211   |
| 16 years | 256     | 50     | 11    | 317   |
| 17 years | 214     | 20     | 22    | 256   |
| Total    | 720     | 105    | 89    | 914   |

According to Table 9 the number of cigarettes consumed per day increased (70) 14 years, (180) 15 years, (256) 16 years and (214) 17 years. The researcher emphasizes the effect of smoking on the student’s ability to retrieve information during the lectures as confirmed by a researcher [7].
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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Appendix

Dear Student, For scientific research, please answer the following questions.

1. How old are you? 14 years 15 years 16 years 17 years
2. Do you smoke? YES NO
   If yes, answer the questions that follow:
3. Does your father smoke? YES NO
4. Does your mother smoke? YES NO
5. Does smoking cause health problems? YES NO
6. How many cigarettes do you consume daily? 1–5 cigarettes per day 6–10 cigarettes per day 11–20 cigarettes per day Over 20 cigarettes a day
7. What is the prevalence of cigarette consumption? Increased Decreased The same
8. Why do you smoke? (Tick all that apply)
   Peer pressure
   Increased self-confidence
   Family problems
   Parental simulation
   To appear strong
   Other (please mention reason)
9. Where do you smoke? (Tick all that apply)
   At home
   In the garden of the house
   In parks and cafes
   In the market
   Around the school
   Other (please mention)
10. What are the negative effects of smoking on you? (Tick all that apply)
    Increased cough
    Sustained health problems
    Tooth decay
    Poor concentration in school
    Constant headache when not smoking
    Family problems
    Unpleasant odors
    Other (please mention)
11. In your opinion, what are the possible strategies for reducing smoking consumption? (Tick all that apply)
    Prohibition of smoking in public places
    Raising parents’ awareness on the causes of smoking
    Activating the role of the media in raising awareness on the harmful effects of smoking on individuals
    Educating students in schools about the harmful effects of smoking
    Other (please mention)
Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2020.105119.

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