



Smoking shisha in public places

Public Health Perspectives

Shisha smoking in
public places

Waterpipe Smoking

- Culturally relevant behaviour in the Middle East, Africa and Asia.
- Cultural relevance \neq Sacred practices
- Harms the health of consumer and others exposed to second-hand smoke

Middle East - protection offered by tobacco smoking or waterpipe smoking legislation in indoor public places



Middle Eastern population covered by waterpipe smoking bans during the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions



Public health risk management for smoking in public places

Waterpipe smoking – Individual practice

Health harms to self (cancer, heart disease, lung disease)

Potentially exposes peers to carcinogenic toxins, carbon monoxide, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, volatile aldehydes.

Waterpipe smoking restrictions in public places (*Bylaw 18891*)

Social modelling and ease of access for youth

Commercialization to increase appeal

Drifting second-hand smoke exposure

Spread of infectious diseases

Precarious employment conditions

Employees of establishment

Health inspectors, enforcement personnel, first responders

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Youth

- 17.7% of Albertan students in Grades 9-12 have tried hookah.
- 45.9% believe hookah to be less harmful than smoking cigarettes.

Why?

- Fun
- New experience
- Low-risk
- Easy

What is social modelling?



Health & Safety Challenges

- Adequate disinfection of apparatus
- Kitchens used to prepare and clean apparatus
- Determining if the products contain tobacco
- Enforcing operation of ventilation units

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