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The prevalence of cigarette and water pipe (WP) smoking increased significantly among high school Tunisian adolescents from 2013 to 2021; and the increase was most alarming for girls regarding WP smoking.

BACKGROUND

- In Tunisia, published data assessing trends of tobacco consumption at national level only concerns middle school students aged 13 to 15 years (GYTS survey-WHO).
- We aimed to determine tobacco smoking prevalence in Tunisian adolescents and assess trends from 2013 to 2021.

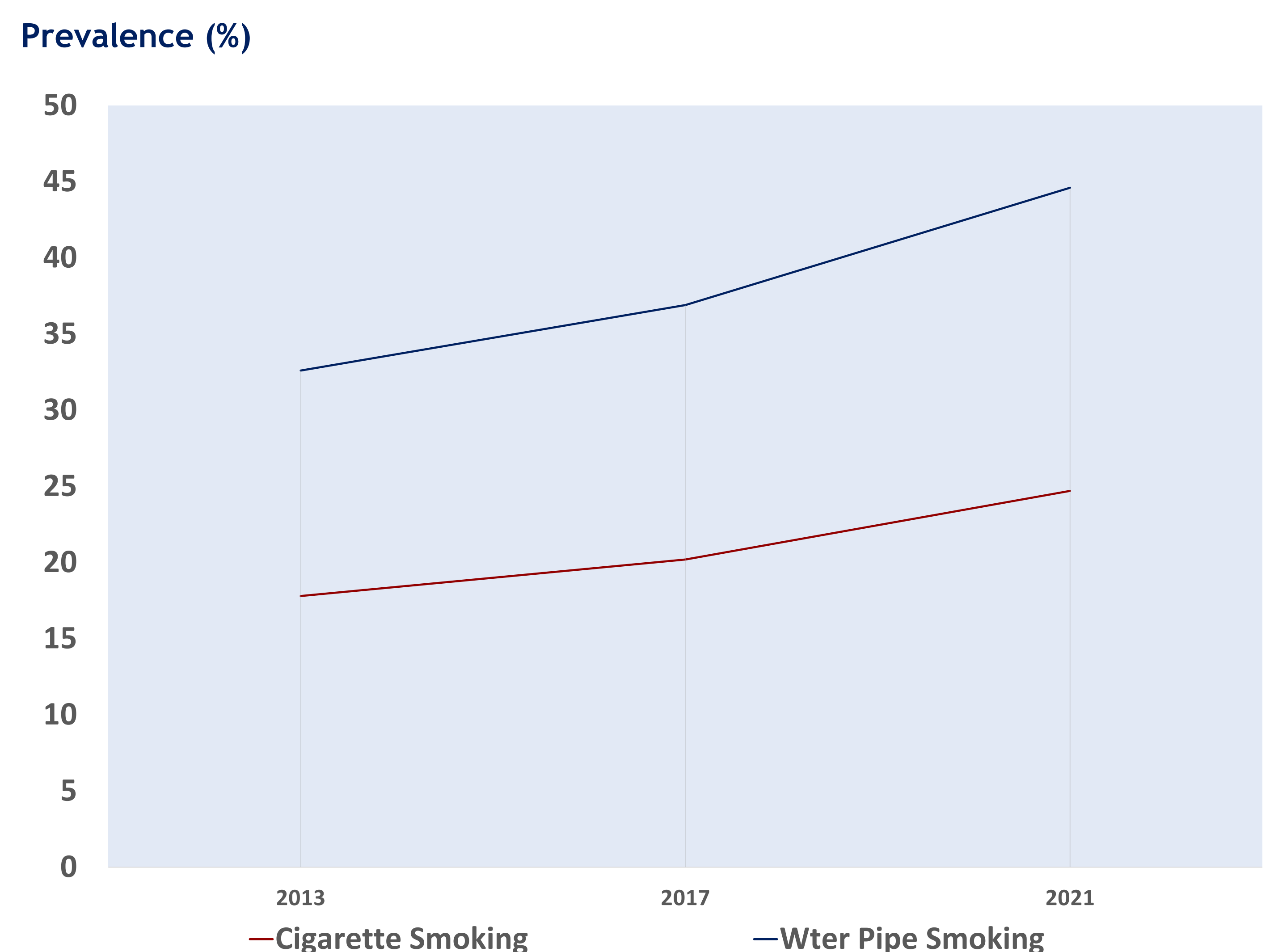
METHODS

- Pooled data from three Mediterranean school surveys on alcohol and other drugs (MedSPAD surveys: 2013, 2017, and 2021) were used.
- Based on three-stage stratification sampling method, teenagers aged between 15 and 17 years, were enrolled. Were not included students enrolled in vocational training centers and out-of-school adolescents.
- Data collection was performed using a validated self-administered standardized questionnaire assessing socio-demographic characteristics and risky behaviors.
- We studied weighted prevalence estimates of cigarettes and water pipe (WP) smoking.
- All statistical analysis, including trend analysis, were performed with STATA software.

RESULTS

- A total of **14.723 students** were enrolled with sex ratio (M/F) equal to 0.6 and mean age of **16.2±0.8 years**.
- The **prevalence of cigarette smoking increased** from 17.8%, to 20.2% then to 24.7% for 2013, 2017 and 2021, respectively.
- For **WP smoking, the prevalence increased** from 14.8%, to 16.7% then to 19.9% for 2013, 2017 and 2021, respectively.
- Trends analysis concluded to **significant increase over study period for cigarettes and WP smoking** ($p < 10^{-3}$).
- The increase was most **alarming for girls regarding WP smoking** (consistent increase over the study period).

RESULTS CONTINUED



Trends in cigarette and water-pipe smoking prevalence among Tunisian adolescents 15-17 years: MedSPAD 2013, 2017 and 2021

CONCLUSIONS

- The prevalence of cigarette and water pipe (WP) smoking increased significantly among high school Tunisian adolescents from 2013 to 2021; and the increase was most alarming **for girls regarding WP smoking**.
- A better commitment to the implementation of MPOWER measures for tobacco control is therefore urgent.

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