
Smoking kills 3,000 people each year in UAE

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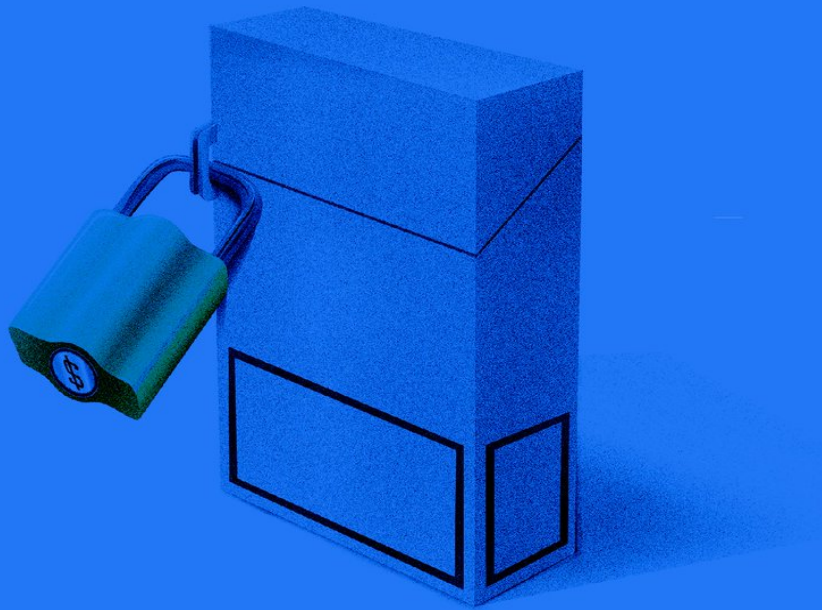


Almost 3,000 people die from smoking-related illnesses in the United Arab Emirates each year, an international report has revealed. The problem cost the country about \$569 million in 2016 in lost productivity and health expenses.

Of the 2,900 people who were killed by smoking in 2016, the vast majority (2,728) were men, while 265 were women, according to the global report by [The Tobacco Atlas](#). Even with the alarming death rate, it is estimated that more than 900,000 adults in the UAE are currently using tobacco on a daily basis.

[@VitalStrat](#) Tobacco taxes are one of the most effective tobacco control measures available and are a key tool to reduce prevalence. See more in the [#TobaccoAtlas](#) 6th Edition <http://www.tobaccoatlas.org>

**Every 10%
increase in
cigarette prices** **=** **2% - 8% drop
in consumption**



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Health care professionals running cessation clinics have reported younger users seeking help to quit the addictive habit, however they have noticed that medwakh – smoking using a traditional Arabic pipe – is increasing in popularity. Tackling the issue starts at government level, according to the report's author.

"Every death from tobacco is preventable, and every government has the power reduce the human and economic toll of the tobacco epidemic," [said](#) Jeffrey Drope, co-editor and author of the report published by global public-health think-tank Vital Strategies and the American Cancer Society.

"It starts by resisting the influence of the industry and implementing proven

tobacco control policies."

[@VitalStrat](#) Fewer smokers = fewer premature deaths. [#TobaccoAtlas](#)
<http://www.tobaccoatlas.org>

**Cutting tobacco use by 30% by
2025 would prevent 38 million
premature deaths and save over
US \$16.9 trillion in health costs
and productivity.**

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The country has introduced several measures in 2017 to combat the pervasive habit. A 100 percent tobacco tax was introduced at the end of last year, the price of cigarettes doubled in October and Shisha cafes must now display visual information on the damaging effects of smoking water pipes.

Worldwide more than 7 million people (5.1 million men, 2 million women) died as a result of tobacco use in 2016. Use and exposure to secondhand smoke costs the global economy over 2 trillion dollars every year, the equivalent to almost 2 percent of the world's total economic output.
