Prevalence of smoking is the percentage of individuals aged 15 and over who currently smoke any tobacco product on a daily or non-daily basis. The World Health Organisation (WHO) prepares estimates of prevalence and incidence for some diseases in accordance with epidemiological models and statistical standards.

Smoking is the most common form of tobacco use and the prevalence of smoking is therefore a good measure of the tobacco epidemic. Empirical analyses indicate that tobacco use causes heart and other vascular diseases and cancers of the lung and other organs. The data presented are age-standardized rates from the WHO.

The limited availability of data on health status is a major constraint in assessing the health situation in developing and less-developed countries. Regarding the OIC countries, the data for prevalence of smoking is available for 39 countries and the latest available data is 2016.

Prevalence of smoking among adult male population in the OIC countries group was estimated as 42.1% in 2016, a 1.3-percentage point decrease compared to that in 2000. Despite this relatively small reduction, the Developed and Non-OIC Developing countries groups, and World saw decreases in their prevalence smoking rates by 12, 11.6, and 9.6 percentage points, respectively.

Although the prevalence of smoking decreased in 26 OIC countries, 13 OIC countries were with increases. The difference between the highest and the lowest prevalence of smoking rates was 65 percentage points for the OIC countries group in 2016.

The OIC countries with more than a 10-percentage-point decrease in the prevalence of male smoking from 2000 to 2016 were Suriname, Turkey, Sierra Leone, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Uganda, Bangladesh, Mozambique, Malaysia, and Maldives.

However, the number of smokers was still over 50% among males aged 15 or older in Indonesia, Tunisia, Maldives, Albania, Kyrgyzstan, and Egypt in 2016.

In order to improve the quantity and quality of the basic national surveys regarding surveillance of tobacco use, SESRIC facilitates the integration of the Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) into the national surveys in the OIC countries in collaboration with the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the CDC Foundation since 2014. Up to now, 15 OIC countries have affirmed their commitment to integrate TQS into their ongoing national surveys and also ensure the regular implementation and collection of the TQS data.

Note: The prevalence of smoking among females was under 5% almost in all OIC countries. Therefore, the current analysis focuses on prevalence of smoking among males aged 15 and older. The OIC countries observed with an increase in smoking prevalence for males were shown in red colour (year markers).