

**Background:** Even though a waterpipe has its origin and tradition in Asian and African states, more than 30 years ago this trend started spreading in our country and gained considerable popularity mostly among youth. The patterns of use of waterpipe among young people are still not getting enough attention though. In the Czech Republic as well as lots of other states there is lack of functional waterpipe-specific policy, regulation and preventive and therapeutic interventions. The health risks of waterpipe use are comparable to other burning tobacco products but public sees it as less harmful due to myths such as the toxins in smoke are filtrated in water.

**Aim:** The aim of this thesis is to investigate patterns of use of waterpipe among Prague university students per online survey with a focus on the first use, current frequency of usage and parallel usage of other tobacco and nicotine products, motivation to abstinence, characteristics of waterpipe session and knowledge of risks. Then compare the results with another studies.

**Methods:** The survey was conducted via online questionnaire spread from February to May 2021 in Facebook university student's groups. The data were then processed and evaluated in Microsoft Excel and Jamovi.

**Results:** More than 70 % of participants are former or current waterpipe users, mostly intermittent. Men report higher prevalence and frequency of use, women on the other hand report lower age of initiation. The average age of initiation is 16,4 years and it happens mainly with friends. The social aspect of waterpipe is significant, more than 98 % of respondents smoke waterpipe in group. One session lasts usually for 1-2 hours. Waterpipe is used mostly in cafés and with tobacco with fruit or mint flavour. Positive aspects of waterpipe usage are socialization, relaxation, taste, smell, experimenting and fun. Negative aspects are the harmfulness and expensiveness. Just a minority of users tried to or is trying to abstain and those who did see it as more difficult. Users consider waterpipe smoking less harmful than ex-users or non-users.

**Conclusion and recommendation:** Even though this thesis brought new results to describe the problematics of waterpipe usage among youth, more studies are needed.