

### **Argileh Smoking in Jordan: Social Benefits Mask Health Risks**

Smoking argileh is a common past time in the Middle East, seen as a great opportunity to socialize and relax with friends. As the popularity of the practice spreads across the globe, concern surrounding the possible negative health affects of argileh is becoming more prevalent, as can be seen in the growing research on the subject. In Jordan argileh's popularity is made apparent by the many argileh cafes and the frequency with which many individuals smoke argileh. Additional information regarding smoking practices and preferences was gathered through interviews with local Jordanians who smoke argileh. While aware of the potential health risks associated with argileh, the participants did not seem overly concerned for their health. The social and cultural importance of argileh, visible in the smoking practices and preferences of the participants, may have the ability to overshadow the potential health risks associated with the practice.