**A Comparative Analysis Examining the Correlations Between Gender and Socio-Economic Status and Smoking Rates among ultra-Orthodox and non-ultra-Orthodox in Israel**

**Abstract**

Background: Smoking is less prevalent among the Israeli ultra-Orthodox compared to secular society Smoking is more prevalent among groups with low socioeconomic status around the world.

Method: This cross-sectional study based on data of ultra-Orthodox town and share a border secular town located within the center of Israel. The data received from Maccabi Healthcare Services (MHS), who's serving about a half of the residents in both towns, included variables among 11,509 are listed as residing in the ultra-Orthodox town and 18,891 in the secular town, aged 50+.

Result: After adjusting for age, gender and socioeconomic status as a continuous variable, the rate of smoking among the ultra-Orthodox town was comparatively lower (OR=0.25, 95%; CI=0.22, 0.28) than the rate for the secular town.

In examined the residents of the ultra-Orthodox town, after adjusting for age and gender, lower rates of smoking were found among lower socioeconomic status relative to residence (OR=0.61, 95%; CI=0.51, 0.73), compared with a higher socioeconomic status.

In the secular town, higher rates of smoking were found among lower socioeconomic status relative to residence (OR=1.63, 95%; CI=1.47, 1.81), compared with a higher socioeconomic status.

Larger disparity in smoking habits between men and women were found among residents of the ultra-Orthodox town (17.5% vs 6.1%) than in the secular town (27.5% vs. 23.3%).

Conclusions: Religiosity is a social-cultural factor that may be associated with different aspects of smoking.

The correlations between socioeconomic status and smoking rates may differ for different populations in the same country, which intensifies the need to research these issues