

TABLES OF CONTENTS

PREFACE	IV
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	V
LIST OF TABLES.....	IX
ABBREVIATIONS	XI
ABSTRACT.....	XIII
ملخص	XVI
INTRODUCTION	1
GAP IN KNOWLEDGE.....	5
SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPORTANCE OF STUDY	6
RESEARCH OBJECTIVES, QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESES	7
CHAPTER 1: LITERATURE REVIEW	9
Tobacco smoking: a global health epidemic.....	9
Overview of waterpipe tobacco smoking	11
Health effects of waterpipe tobacco smoking.....	15
Global trends: the epidemiology of waterpipe tobacco smoking	17
Factors associated with waterpipe tobacco smoking	23
Tobacco smoking as a public health challenge: where do we currently stand?	25
Waterpipe tobacco smoking in the occupied Palestinian territory	28
CHAPTER 2: METHODOLOGY	33
Study design overview.....	33
Study area and population.....	33
Sampling frame and study sample	34
Sampling method, sample size and eligibility criteria.....	35
Data collection tools	38
The fieldwork process.....	41
Ethical considerations	42

Study measures and variables	43
Statistical data analysis	45
CHAPTER 3: RESULTS	47
Baseline sample characteristics	47
Prevalence and patterns of WTS among the study sample	53
WTS and its associated factors among the study sample	65
Testing of the pilot web-based survey versus the paper-based survey	79
Completion rate of the web-based survey.....	82
CHAPTER 4: DISCUSSION	83
Main study findings discussion	83
Methodological discussion	97
Strengths and contributions of the study.....	98
Limitations of the study	100
CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS	101
REFERENCES	XVI
ANNEXES	XVI
Annex 1.....	XVI
Annex 2:.....	XVI
Annex 3:.....	XVI
Annex 4.....	XVI
Annex 5.....	XVI
Annex 6.....	XVIII