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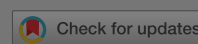
ORIGINAL ARTICLE

The Economics of Tobacco in Lebanon: An Estimation of the Social Costs of Tobacco Consumption

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understand the tobacco trade. ts to identify p. We also , the cost of ntal ver bounds identify the ch regulates imate

actors the Ministries of Finance and Health, employers, and patients of smoking-related

illnesses. In 2008, tobacco trade in Lebanon led to a total social cost of \$326.7 million (1.1% of GDP). Conclusion: Low price tags on imported cigarettes not only increase smoking prevalence, but they also result in a net economic loss. Lebanese policymakers should consider the overall deficit from tobacco trade and implement the guidelines presented in the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control to at once increase government revenue and reduce government outlays, and save the labor market and the environment substantial costs.

Keywords :

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direct costs of tobacco

indirect costs of tobacco

social costs of tobacco

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Nadia Naamani holds a Masters of Science from the University of Reading, UK, in Food Economics and Marketing and a Bachelors of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics from the American University of Beirut. She is a licensed dietitian in Lebanon. She currently has an interest in corporate research and is pursuing a career in the field.

Notes

- 1 The four other countries that grow tobacco on more than 1% of their agricultural land: Malawi, North and South Korea, and Macedonia (Eriksen et al., 2012).
- 2 [Tiihonen et al. \(2012\)](#) show that smokers in Finland had a shorter lifespan of 8.6 years on average compared to nonsmokers. This mapped into lower total health costs for smokers and forgone pension income corresponding to an average of 7.3 years. The authors found that from a strict fiscal perspective, smokers had a substantial positive net contribution to public finance. Yet when a quality-adjusted life year cost was introduced (QALY), nonsmokers were found to have a beneficial net effect on society.

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