

# Syrian Arab Republic

## Global School Personnel Survey (GSPS)

### FACT SHEET . . . . .

The Syrian Arab Republic GSPS includes data on prevalence of cigarette and other tobacco use as well as information on attitudes on school policy toward tobacco use, access to teaching materials and training, and attitudes toward tobacco use. These factors are components Syrian Arab Republic could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Syrian Arab Republic GSPS was a school-based survey of school personnel from the schools that participated in the 2002 Syrian Arab Republic GYTS.

The GYTS was conducted in schools having students in grades 7, 8, and 9. For the GYTS, a two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Syrian Arab Republic. At the first stage, schools were selected with probability proportional to enrollment size. At the second stage, classes were randomly selected and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate. The school response rate was 100.0%. For the GSPS, 96.2% of the school personnel completed the survey, for a total of 827 teachers and administrators.

#### Prevalence of Tobacco Use among School Personnel

39.2% ever smoked cigarettes (Admin = 50.7%, Teachers = 38.0%)  
 27.3% currently use any tobacco product (Admin = 34.9%, Teachers = 26.5%)  
 25.2% currently smoke cigarettes (Admin = 35.1%, Teachers = 24.2%)  
 7.5% currently use other tobacco products (Admin = 5.4%, Teachers = 7.7%)

#### School Policies Prohibiting Tobacco Use

98.1% agree schools should have policy prohibiting tobacco use among students  
 48.9% report school has policy prohibiting tobacco use among students  
 88.9% agree schools should have a policy prohibiting tobacco use among personnel  
 24.4% report school has a policy prohibiting tobacco use among personnel  
 71.0% report school enforces policies on tobacco use for students and personnel

#### Access to Teaching Materials and Training

92.8% think teachers need specific training to help students avoid tobacco use  
 13.5% teachers have access to teaching materials on tobacco use  
 7.5% teachers had ever received training on youth tobacco use prevention  
 58.2% schools use non-classroom programs to teach youth tobacco use prevention

#### Attitudes

97.7% think smoke from others is harmful to them  
 96.6% think teacher tobacco use influences youth tobacco use  
 95.2% think tobacco product advertising should be completely banned  
 69.7% think the price of tobacco products should be increased  
 59.4% think the tobacco industry deliberately encourages youth to use tobacco

#### Highlights

- Close to three in 10 school personnel currently use any tobacco product; One-quarter currently smoke cigarettes and 7.5% currently use other tobacco products.
- Nearly half of the schools have a policy prohibiting tobacco use among students; One-quarter have a policy for personnel; More than seven in 10 schools enforce their policies.
- 13.5% of the teachers have access to teaching materials on tobacco use.
- 7.5% of teachers have ever received training on youth tobacco use prevention.
- Nearly three in five schools use non-classroom programs to teach youth tobacco use prevention.
- More than nine in 10 think teacher tobacco use influences youth tobacco use.