

United Arab Emirates Global School Personnel Survey (GSPS) FACT SHEET

The United Arab Emirates 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 United Arab Emirates could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The United Arab Emirates GSPS was a school-based survey of school personnel from the schools that participated in the 2005 United Arab Emirates GYTS.

The GYTS was conducted in schools having students in 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th grade. For the GYTS, a two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of United Arab Emirates. 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 93.0%. For the GSPS, 51.7% of the school personnel completed the survey, for a total of 4,625 teachers & administrators.

Prevalence of Tobacco Use among School Personnel

- 37.6% ever smoked cigarettes (Admin = 55.5%, Teachers = 36.5%)
- 21.3% ever used shisha (Admin = 21.3%, Teachers = 21.3%)
- 18.6% currently use any tobacco product (Admin = 36.6%, Teachers = 17.4%)
- 13.9% currently smoke cigarettes (Admin = 29.2%, Teachers = 13.0%)
- 10.6% currently use other tobacco products (Admin = 24.3%, Teachers = 9.7%)

School Policies Prohibiting Tobacco Use

- 98.4% agree schools should have policy prohibiting tobacco use among students
- 63.7% report school has policy prohibiting tobacco use among students
- 94.9% agree schools should have a policy prohibiting tobacco use among personnel
- 66.7% report school has a policy prohibiting tobacco use among personnel
- 83.6% report school enforces policies on tobacco use for students and personnel

Access to Teaching Materials and Training

- 99.0% think teachers need specific training to help students avoid tobacco use
- 35.3% teachers have access to teaching materials on tobacco use
- 9.7% teachers had ever received training on youth tobacco use prevention
- 45.3% schools use non-classroom programs to teach youth tobacco use prevention

Attitudes

- 98.3% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 97.8% think teacher tobacco use influences youth tobacco use
- 95.4% think tobacco product advertising should be completely banned
- 83.7% think the price of tobacco products should be increased
- 82.0% think the tobacco industry deliberately encourages youth to use tobacco

Highlights

- 18.6% of school personnel currently use any tobacco product; 13.9% currently smoke cigarettes and 10.6% currently use other tobacco products.
- Over three in five schools have a policy prohibiting tobacco use among students; two-thirds have a policy for personnel; More than four in five schools enforce their policies.
- More than one-third of the teachers have access to teaching materials on tobacco use.
- 9.7% of teachers have ever received training on youth tobacco use prevention.
- Close to half the schools use non-classroom programs to teach youth tobacco use prevention.
- Nearly all think teacher tobacco use influences youth tobacco use.