

The Eritrea 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 Eritrea could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Eritrea GSPS was a school-based survey of school personnel from the schools that participated in the 2006 Eritrea GYTS.

The GYTS was conducted in schools having students in grades 5 through 10. For the GYTS, a two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Eritrea. 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, 80.1% of the school personnel completed the survey, for a total of 1,446 teachers & administrators.

Prevalence of Tobacco Use among School Personnel

13.2% ever smoked cigarettes (Admin = 11.8%, Teachers = 13.3%)
10.8% currently use any tobacco product (Admin = 9.3%, Teachers = 10.9%)
8.3% currently smoke cigarettes (Admin = 10.1%, Teachers = 8.1%)
5.5% currently use other tobacco products (Admin = 1.4%, Teachers = 5.8%)
5.6% smoked on school property in the past year (Admin = 3.1%, Teachers = 5.8%)

School Policies Prohibiting Tobacco Use

71.3% agree schools should have policy prohibiting tobacco use among students
63.6% report school has policy prohibiting tobacco use among students
73.9% agree schools should have a policy prohibiting tobacco use among personnel
50.8% report school has a policy prohibiting tobacco use among personnel
86.4% report school enforces policies on tobacco use for students and personnel

Access to Teaching Materials and Training

48.5% schools include tobacco use prevention in school curriculum
86.8% think teachers need specific training to help students avoid tobacco use
36.6% teachers have access to teaching materials on tobacco use
22.4% teachers had ever received training on youth tobacco use prevention
31.4% schools use non-classroom programs to teach youth tobacco use prevention

Attitudes

70.7% think smoking should be banned from public places
89.2% think smoke from others is harmful to them
79.0% think teacher tobacco use influences youth tobacco use
73.0% think tobacco product advertising should be completely banned
65.6% think the price of tobacco products should be increased
49.3% think the tobacco industry deliberately encourages youth to use tobacco

Highlights

- 10.8% of school personnel currently use any tobacco product; 8.3% currently smoke cigarettes and 5.5% currently use other tobacco products.
- More than 3 in 5 schools have a policy prohibiting tobacco use among students; half have a policy for personnel; over 4 in 5 schools enforce their policies.
- Almost half the schools include tobacco use prevention in school curriculum.
- Over one-third of the teachers have access to teaching materials on tobacco use.
- Close to one-quarter of the teachers have ever received training on youth tobacco use prevention.
- Three in 10 schools use non-classroom programs to teach youth tobacco use prevention.
- Seven in 10 think smoking should be banned from public places.
- Four in 5 think teacher tobacco use influences youth tobacco use.