

# Syrian Arab Republic - Dental Students (3<sup>rd</sup> Year Students Only)

## Global Health Professions Student Survey (GHPSS)

### FACT SHEET . . . . .

The Syrian Arab Republic dental students GHPSS includes data on prevalence of cigarette smoking and use of other tobacco products, knowledge and attitudes about tobacco use, exposure to second-hand smoke, desire for smoking cessation, and training received during dental school regarding patient counseling on smoking cessation techniques. This information could be very useful in monitoring and developing Syrian Arab Republic's comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Syrian Arab Republic dental students GHPSS was a census of 3<sup>rd</sup> year dental students attending the 4 dental schools in Syrian Arab Republic conducted in 2006. The school response rate was 100% and the student response rate was 86.2%. A total of 475 students participated in the Syrian Arab Republic dental students GHPSS.

#### Prevalence

53.2% ever smoked cigarettes (Males = 68.1%, Females = 28.8%)  
 23.6% currently smoke cigarettes (Males = 33.2%, Females = 8.1%)  
 63.7% ever used any form of tobacco other than cigarettes (Males = 70.8%, Females = 51.8%)  
 29.2% currently use any form of tobacco other than cigarettes (Males = 38.5%, Females = 13.8%)  
 58.7% of ever smokers smoked on school premises/property during the past year.  
 58.2% of ever smokers smoked in school buildings during the past year.

#### Factors Influencing Tobacco Use

65.3% were exposed to second-hand smoke at home, during the past week.  
 86.8% were exposed to second-hand smoke in public places during the past week.  
 25.0% reported that their school had a ban on smoking in school buildings and clinics.  
 52.3% reported that their school enforced the ban on smoking in school buildings and clinics.  
 89.9% thought smoking should be banned in all enclosed public places.  
 92.1% thought tobacco sales to adolescents should be banned.  
 83.8% thought there should be a complete ban on advertising tobacco products.  
 72.7% of current smokers wanted to stop smoking.  
 75.4% of current smokers ever received help/advice to stop smoking cigarettes.  
 61.9% were taught about the dangers of smoking during dental school training.

#### Role Model and Cessation Training

89.1% thought health professionals serve as role models for their patients.  
 97.7% thought health professionals have a role in giving advice about smoking cessation to patients.  
 13.9% received formal training in smoking cessation approaches during dental school.  
 96.1% thought health professionals should get specific training on cessation techniques.

#### Highlights

**Almost one-quarter currently smoke cigarettes and 3 in 10 currently use other tobacco products.**

**Close to three-quarters of the smokers indicated that they want to quit.**

**Over 4 in 5 were exposed to smoke in public places.**

**Nine in 10 support a ban on smoking in all enclosed public places.**

**13.9% received training to provide patients with cessation approaches.**

**More than 9 in 10 think health professionals should get specific training on cessation techniques to use with patients.**