

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 2007 Syrian Arab Republic GYTS.

The GYTS was conducted in schools having students in forms 7, 8, 9 and 10. 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, 85.0% of the school personnel completed the survey, for a total of 869 teachers & administrators.

Prevalence of Tobacco Use among School Personnel

- 37.7% ever smoked cigarettes (Admin = 60.9%, Teachers = 35.5%)
- 32.7% currently use any tobacco product (Admin = 47.4%, Teachers = 31.3%)
- 23.0% currently smoke cigarettes (Admin = 43.8%, Teachers = 21.1%)
- 20.4% currently use other tobacco products (Admin = 21.2%, Teachers = 20.3%)
- 17.3% smoked on school property in the past year (Admin = 37.0%, Teachers = 15.4%)

School Policies Prohibiting Tobacco Use

- 96.4% agree schools should have policy prohibiting tobacco use among students
- 82.7% report school has policy prohibiting tobacco use among students
- 91.3% agree schools should have a policy prohibiting tobacco use among personnel
- 46.3% report school has a policy prohibiting tobacco use among personnel
- 94.8% report school enforces policies on tobacco use for students and personnel

Access to Teaching Materials and Training

- 58.5% schools include tobacco use prevention in school curriculum
- 73.7% think teachers need specific training to help students avoid tobacco use
- 73.5% teachers have access to teaching materials on tobacco use
- 79.0% teachers had ever received training on youth tobacco use prevention
- 36.3% schools use non-classroom programs to teach youth tobacco use prevention

Attitudes

- 88.4% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 94.6% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 91.0% think teacher tobacco use influences youth tobacco use
- 88.0% think tobacco product advertising should be completely banned
- 71.1% think the price of tobacco products should be increased
- 79.2% think the tobacco industry deliberately encourages youth to use tobacco

Highlights

- One-third of school personnel currently use any tobacco product; 23.0% currently smoke cigarettes and 20.4% currently use other tobacco products.
- Over 4 in 5 schools have a policy prohibiting tobacco use among students; half have a policy for personnel; Nine in 10 schools enforce their policies.
- Nearly 3 in 5 schools include tobacco use prevention in school curriculum.
- Three-quarters of the teachers have access to teaching materials on tobacco use.
- Eight in 10 teachers have ever received training on youth tobacco use prevention.
- Two in five schools use non-classroom programs to teach youth tobacco use prevention.
- 88.4% think smoking should be banned from public places.
- Nine in 10 think teacher tobacco use influences youth tobacco use.