

# Tunisia - Dental Students (3<sup>rd</sup> Year Students Only) Global Health Professions Student Survey (GHPSS)

## FACT SHEET . . . . .

The Tunisia 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 Tunisia's comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Tunisia dental students GHPSS was a census of 3<sup>rd</sup> year dental students attending the 1 dental school in Tunisia conducted in 2007. The school response rate was 100% and the student response rate was 62.4%. A total of 123 students participated in the Tunisia dental students GHPSS.

### Prevalence

- 45.4% ever smoked cigarettes (Males = 75.0%, Females = 37.9%)
- 12.6% currently smoke cigarettes (Males = 30.4%, Females = 8.3%)
- 28.7% ever used any form of tobacco other than cigarettes (Males = 48.0%, Females = 23.7%)
- 17.1% currently use any form of tobacco other than cigarettes (Males = 48.0%, Females = 8.2%)
- 37.0% of ever smokers smoked on school premises/property during the past year.
- 21.4% of ever smokers smoked in school buildings during the past year.

### Factors Influencing Tobacco Use

- 44.7% were exposed to second-hand smoke at home, during the past week.
- 62.8% were exposed to second-hand smoke in public places during the past week.
- 33.9% reported that their school had a ban on smoking in school buildings and clinics.
- 20.0% reported that their school enforced the ban on smoking in school buildings and clinics.
- 81.0% thought smoking should be banned in all enclosed public places.
- 81.8% thought tobacco sales to adolescents should be banned.
- 81.0% thought there should be a complete ban on advertising tobacco products.
- 61.5% of current smokers ever received help/advice to stop smoking cigarettes.
- 70.7% were taught about the dangers of smoking during dental school training.

### Role Model and Cessation Training

- 92.6% thought health professionals serve as role models for their patients.
- 96.7% thought health professionals have a role in giving advice about smoking cessation to patients.
- 14.9% received formal training in smoking cessation approaches during dental school.
- 96.7% thought health professionals should get specific training on cessation techniques.

### Highlights

**Over 1 in 10 currently smoke cigarettes and 17.1% currently use other tobacco products.**

**More than 3 in 5 were exposed to smoke in public places.**

**Four in 5 support a ban on smoking in all enclosed public places.**

**14.9% received training to provide patients with cessation approaches.**

**Nearly all think health professionals should get specific training on cessation techniques to use with patients.**