

# Costa Rica

## Global School Personnel Survey (GSPS)

### FACT SHEET . . . . .

The Costa Rica 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 Costa Rica could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Costa Rica GSPS was a school-based survey of school personnel from the schools that participated in the 2008 Costa Rica GYTS.

The GYTS was conducted in schools having students in grades 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>. For the GYTS, a two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Costa Rica. 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 57.8%. For the GSPS, 42.8% of the school personnel completed the survey, for a total of 1,047 teachers and administrators.

#### Prevalence of Tobacco Use among School Personnel

- 48.3% ever smoked cigarettes (Admin = 50.0%, Teachers = 48.3%)
- 20.9% currently use any tobacco product (Admin = 41.7%, Teachers = 20.4%)
- 14.0% currently smoke cigarettes (Admin = 29.2%, Teachers = 13.7%)
- 9.5% currently use other tobacco products (Admin = 11.5%, Teachers = 9.4%)
- 5.7% smoked on school property in the past year (Admin = 7.4%, Teachers = 5.6%)

#### School Policies Prohibiting Tobacco Use

- 70.4% report school has policy prohibiting tobacco use among students
- 37.1% report school has a policy prohibiting tobacco use among personnel

#### Access to Teaching Materials and Training

- 95.5% think teachers need specific training to help students avoid tobacco use
- 38.2% teachers have access to teaching materials on tobacco use
- 11.5% teachers had ever received training on youth tobacco use prevention
- 12.2% schools use non-classroom programs to teach youth tobacco use prevention

#### Attitudes

- 99.4% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 82.8% think tobacco product advertising should be completely banned
- 81.4% think the price of tobacco products should be increased
- 89.7% think the tobacco industry deliberately encourages youth to use tobacco

#### Highlights

- 20.9% of school personnel currently use any tobacco product; 14.0% currently smoke cigarettes and 9.5% currently use other tobacco products.
- Seven in 10 schools have a policy prohibiting tobacco use among students; Nearly two in five have a policy for personnel.
- More than one-third of the teachers have access to teaching materials on tobacco use.
- Over 1 in 10 teachers have ever received training on youth tobacco use prevention.
- More than 1 in 10 schools use non-classroom programs to teach youth tobacco use prevention.