

Panama Global School Personnel Survey (GSPS)

FACT SHEET • • • • • • • •

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

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

The GYTS was conducted in schools having students in grades VII, VIII, IX and X. For the GYTS, a two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Panama. 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 94.0%. For the GSPS, 64.8% of the school personnel completed the survey, for a total of 2,422 teachers and administrators.

Prevalence of Tobacco Use among School Personnel

34.1% ever smoked cigarettes (Admin = 22.8%, Teachers = 34.6%)
5.7% currently use any tobacco product (Admin = 17.3%, Teachers = 5.3%)
5.3% currently smoke cigarettes (Admin = 10.1%, Teachers = 5.1%)
1.4% currently use other tobacco products (Admin = 17.4%, Teachers = 0.8%)
1.5% smoked on school property in the past year (Admin = 1.5%, Teachers = 1.5%)

School Policies Prohibiting Tobacco Use

97.1% agree schools should have policy prohibiting tobacco use among students
76.6% report school has policy prohibiting tobacco use among students
97.5% agree schools should have a policy prohibiting tobacco use among personnel
60.0% report school has a policy prohibiting tobacco use among personnel
97.7% report school enforces policies on tobacco use for students and personnel

Access to Teaching Materials and Training

40.8% schools include tobacco use prevention in school curriculum
87.0% think teachers need specific training to help students avoid tobacco use
36.9% teachers have access to teaching materials on tobacco use
24.0% teachers had ever received training on youth tobacco use prevention
26.5% schools use non-classroom programs to teach youth tobacco use prevention

Attitudes

94.8% think smoking should be banned from public places
94.1% think smoke from others is harmful to them
85.9% think teacher tobacco use influences youth tobacco use
88.9% think tobacco product advertising should be completely banned
90.4% think the price of tobacco products should be increased
83.0% think the tobacco industry deliberately encourages youth to use tobacco

Highlights

- 5.7% of school personnel currently use any tobacco product; 5.3% currently smoke cigarettes and 1.4% currently use other tobacco products.
- Three-quarters of the schools have a policy prohibiting tobacco use among students; three in five have a policy for personnel; Almost all schools enforce their policies.
- Over 2 in 5 schools include tobacco use prevention in school curriculum.
- More than one-third of the teachers have access to teaching materials on tobacco use.
- One-quarter of the teachers have ever received training on youth tobacco use prevention.
- Nearly 3 in 10 schools use non-classroom programs to teach youth tobacco use prevention.
- Over 9 in 10 think smoking should be banned from public places.
- More than 4 in 5 think teacher tobacco use influences youth tobacco use.