

Syrian Arab Republic - UNRWA

Global School Personnel Survey (GSPS)

FACT SHEET

The Syrian Arab Republic - UNRWA 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 - UNRWA could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Syrian Arab Republic - UNRWA GSPS was a school-based survey of school personnel from the schools that participated in the 2008 Syrian Arab Republic - UNRWA GYTS.

The GYTS was conducted in schools having students in grades 7, 8, and 9. For the GYTS, a two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Syrian Arab Republic - UNRWA. 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, 93.8% of the school personnel completed the survey, for a total of 408 teachers & administrators.

Prevalence of Tobacco Use among School Personnel

37.3% ever smoked cigarettes (Admin = 50.1%, Teachers = 36.2%)
 26.2% ever smoked shisha (Admin = 23.8%, Teachers = 26.3%)
 35.3% currently use any tobacco product (Admin = 49.4%, Teachers = 34.2%)
 26.3% currently smoke cigarettes (Admin = 46.6%, Teachers = 24.7%)
 17.4% currently use other tobacco products (Admin = 19.7%, Teachers = 17.3%)
 10.9% smoked on school property in the past year (Admin = 23.2, Teachers = 9.9%)

School Policies Prohibiting Tobacco Use

98.1% agree schools should have policy prohibiting tobacco use among students
 92.7% report school has policy prohibiting tobacco use among students
 88.2% agree schools should have a policy prohibiting tobacco use among personnel
 80.4% report school has a policy prohibiting tobacco use among personnel
 89.7% report school enforces policies on tobacco use for students and personnel

Access to Teaching Materials and Training

77.4% schools include tobacco use prevention in school curriculum
 78.0% think teachers need specific training to help students avoid tobacco use
 61.4% teachers have access to teaching materials on tobacco use
 12.9% teachers had ever received training on youth tobacco use prevention
 45.5% schools use non-classroom programs to teach youth tobacco use prevention

Attitudes

92.4% think smoking should be banned from public places
 96.3% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 88.6% think teacher tobacco use influences youth tobacco use
 89.4% think tobacco product advertising should be completely banned
 68.5% think the price of tobacco products should be increased
 88.9% think the tobacco industry deliberately encourages youth to use tobacco

Highlights

- Close to two in five school personnel have ever smoked cigarettes; 26.3% currently smoke cigarettes and 26.2% have ever smoked shisha.
- Nine in 10 schools have a policy prohibiting tobacco use among students; eight in 10 have a policy for personnel; nine in 10 enforce their policies.
- Three-quarters of the schools include tobacco use prevention in school curriculum.
- Six in 10 teachers have access to teaching materials on tobacco use.
- 12.9% of the teachers have ever received training on youth tobacco use prevention.
- 45.5% of schools use non-classroom programs to teach youth tobacco use prevention.
- More than nine in 10 think smoking should be banned from public places.
- Nearly nine in 10 think teacher tobacco use influences youth tobacco use.