

Trinidad & Tobago - Medical Students (3rd Year Students Only) Global Health Professions Student Survey (GHPSS)

FACT SHEET

The Trinidad & Tobago medical 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 medical school regarding patient counseling on smoking cessation techniques. This information could be very useful in monitoring and developing Trinidad & Tobago's comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Trinidad & Tobago medical students GHPSS was a census of 3rd year medical students attending the 1 medical school in Trinidad & Tobago conducted in 2008. The school response rate was 100% and the student response rate was 34.2%. A total of 61 students participated in the Trinidad & Tobago medical students GHPSS.

Prevalence

29.5% ever smoked cigarettes (Males = 36.8%, Females = 26.2%)
4.9% currently smoke cigarettes (Males = 10.5%, Females = 2.4%)
15.3% ever used any form of tobacco other than cigarettes (Males = 11.1%, Females = 17.1%)
0.0% currently use any form of tobacco other than cigarettes (Males = 0.0%, Females = 0.0%)
23.5% of ever smokers smoked on school premises/property during the past year.
11.1% of ever smokers smoked in school buildings during the past year.

Factors Influencing Tobacco Use

27.9% were exposed to second-hand smoke at home, during the past week.
63.9% were exposed to second-hand smoke in public places during the past week.
71.7% reported that their school had a ban on smoking in school buildings and clinics.
23.8% reported that their school enforced the ban on smoking in school buildings and clinics.
88.5% thought smoking should be banned in all enclosed public places.
93.4% thought tobacco sales to adolescents should be banned.
73.8% thought there should be a complete ban on advertising tobacco products.
100.0% were taught about the dangers of smoking during medical school training.

Role Model and Cessation Training

57.4% 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.
60.7% received formal training in smoking cessation approaches during medical school.
98.4% thought health professionals should get specific training on cessation techniques.

Highlights

4.9% currently smoke cigarettes and 15.3% have ever used any form of tobacco other than cigarettes.

Over 3 in 5 were exposed to smoke in public places.

Nearly 9 in 10 support a ban on smoking in all enclosed public places.

Three in 5 received training to provide patients with cessation approaches.

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