

Saudi Arabia - Medical Students 2010 (3rd Year Students Only) Global Health Professions Student Survey (GHPSS)

FACT SHEET

The Saudi Arabia 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 Saudi Arabia's comprehensive tobacco control program.

Prevalence

40.6% ever smoked cigarettes (Males = 45.9%, Females = 37.3%)
8.2% currently smoke cigarettes (Males = 17.4%, Females = 2.7%)
36.3% ever used any form of tobacco other than cigarettes (Males = 30.4%, Females = 39.9%)
11.7% currently use any form of tobacco other than cigarettes (Males = 19.3%, Females = 7.2%)
6.9% currently smoke shisha (Male = 7.8%, Female = 6.3%)
3.5% of ever smokers smoked on school premises/property during the past year[†]
0.0% of ever smokers smoked in school buildings during the past year

Factors Influencing Tobacco Use

29.0% were exposed to second-hand smoke at home, during the past week.
31.5% were exposed to second-hand smoke in public places during the past week
63.1% reported that their school had a ban on smoking in school buildings and clinics
85.0% reported that their school enforced the ban on smoking in school buildings and clinics
96.2% thought smoking should be banned in all enclosed public places
88.4% thought tobacco sales to adolescents should be banned
87.6% thought there should be a complete ban on advertising tobacco products
84.6% were taught about the dangers of smoking during medical school training

Role Model and Cessation Training

85.3% thought health professionals serve as role models for their patients
94.4% thought health professionals have a role in giving advice about smoking cessation to patients
21.8% received formal training in smoking cessation approaches during medical school
92.5% thought health professionals should get specific training on cessation techniques

[†] The percentage is based on observations between 10 and 34)

The Saudi Arabia Medical students GHPSS was a census of 3rd year Medical students attending the 5 Medical schools in Saudi Arabia conducted in 2010. A total of 177 3rd year students participated in the Saudi Arabia Medical students GHPSS. The overall response rate of all Medical students surveyed was 91.7%.

Highlights

8.2% currently smoke cigarettes and 11.7% currently use other tobacco products

More than three in 10 were exposed to smoke in public places

Almost all support a ban on smoking in all enclosed public places

Over two in 10 received training in smoking cessation approaches to use with patients

More than nine in 10 think health professionals should get specific training on cessation techniques to use with patients