

# Sri Lanka - Medical Students 2011 (3<sup>rd</sup> Year Students Only)

## Global Health Professions Student Survey (GHPSS)

### FACT SHEET . . . . .

The Sri Lanka 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 Sri Lanka's comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Sri Lanka Medical students GHPSS was a census of 3<sup>rd</sup> year Medical students attending 9 Medical schools in Sri Lanka conducted in 2011. A total of 1,118 students participated in the Sri Lanka Medical students GHPSS. The overall response rate of all Medical students surveyed was 92.2%.

#### Prevalence of Tobacco Use among 3<sup>rd</sup> year Medical Students

- 4.9% currently use any form of tobacco product (Males = 10.5%, Females = 0.6%)
- 15.9% ever smoked cigarettes (Males = 31.8%, Females = 3.2%)
- 3.2% currently smoke cigarettes (Males = 7.4%, Females = 0.2%)
- 22.0% ever used any form of tobacco other than cigarettes (Males = 33.7%, Females = 12.7%)
- 3.0% currently use any form of tobacco other than cigarettes (Males = 6.1%, Females = 0.6%)
- 17.7% of ever smokers smoked on school premises/property during the past year
- 6.8% of ever smokers smoked in school buildings during the past year

#### Factors Influencing Tobacco Use

- 10.8% were exposed to second-hand smoke at home, during the past week
- 29.4% were exposed to second-hand smoke in enclosed public places during the past week
- 36.8% were exposed to second-hand smoke in outdoor public places during the past week
- 29.7% reported that their school had a ban on smoking in school buildings and clinics
- 86.1% reported that their school enforced the ban on smoking in school buildings and clinics
- 97.7% thought smoking should be banned in all enclosed public places
- 95.9% thought tobacco sales to adolescents should be banned
- 90.1% thought there should be a complete ban on advertising tobacco products
- 44.7% of current smokers wanted to stop smoking<sup>†</sup>
- 74.2% of current smokers ever received help/advice to stop smoking cigarettes
- 93.0% were taught about the dangers of smoking during medical school training

#### Role Model and Cessation Training

- 90.4% thought health professionals serve as role models for their patients
- 89.2% thought health professionals have a role in giving advice about smoking cessation to patients
- 18.6% received formal training in smoking cessation approaches during medical school
- 87.9% thought health professionals should get specific training on cessation techniques

(<sup>†</sup> The percentage is based on observations between 10 and 34)

#### Highlights

**3.2% currently smoke cigarettes and 3.0% currently use any form of tobacco other than cigarettes**

**Three in 10 were exposed to smoke in enclosed public places**

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

**18.6% received training to provide patients with cessation approaches**

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

