

# global health professions student survey

## Country fact sheets

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, developed the Global Health Professions Student Survey to track tobacco use among health professions students across countries using a common methodology and core questionnaire. Information from the Survey is compiled within the participating country by a Research Coordinator nominated by the Ministry of Health, and technically reviewed by WHO and CDC. The content has not otherwise been edited by WHO or CDC.

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**World Health  
Organization**

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean



**CENTERS FOR DISEASE  
CONTROL AND PREVENTION**

# Saudi Arabia - Medical Students 2010 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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

### 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<sup>†</sup>
- 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

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

### 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**