

# 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**

# Syrian Arab Republic - Pharmacy Students (3<sup>rd</sup> Year Students Only) Global Health Professions Student Survey (GHPSS)

## FACT SHEET . . . . .

The Syrian Arab Republic pharmacy 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 pharmacy school regarding patient counseling on smoking cessation techniques. This information could be very useful in monitoring and developing Syrian Arab Republic's comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Syrian Arab Republic pharmacy students GHPSS was a school-based survey of 3<sup>rd</sup> year pharmacy students attending the 4 pharmacy schools in Syrian Arab Republic conducted in 2006. The school response rate was 100% and the student response rate was 90.9%. A total of 553 students participated in the Syrian Arab Republic pharmacy students GHPSS.

### Prevalence

- 36.2% ever smoked cigarettes (Males = 65.1%, Females = 23.7%)
- 13.0% currently smoke cigarettes (Males = 33.7%, Females = 4.1%)
- 50.0% ever used any form of tobacco other than cigarettes (Males = 65.3%, Females = 43.4%)
- 20.8% currently use any form of tobacco other than cigarettes (Males = 32.2%, Females = 15.8%)
- 60.1% of ever smokers smoked on school premises/property during the past year.
- 55.9% of ever smokers smoked in school buildings during the past year.

### Factors Influencing Tobacco Use

- 58.8% were exposed to second-hand smoke at home, during the past week.
- 80.9% were exposed to second-hand smoke in public places during the past week.
- 6.0% reported that their school had a ban on smoking in school buildings and clinics.
- 56.0% reported that their school enforced the ban on smoking in school buildings and clinics.
- 95.0% thought smoking should be banned in all enclosed public places.
- 92.0% thought tobacco sales to adolescents should be banned.
- 85.5% thought there should be a complete ban on advertising tobacco products.
- 53.4% of current smokers wanted to stop smoking.
- 69.2% of current smokers ever received help/advice to stop smoking cigarettes.
- 62.4% were taught about the dangers of smoking during pharmacy school training.

### Role Model and Cessation Training

- 91.5% thought health professionals serve as role models for their patients.
- 97.8% thought health professionals have a role in giving advice about smoking cessation to patients.
- 24.2% received formal training in smoking cessation approaches during pharmacy school.
- 98.5% thought health professionals should get specific training on cessation techniques.

### Highlights

**13.0% currently smoke cigarettes and 1 in 5 currently uses other tobacco products.**

**Over half the smokers indicated that they want to quit.**

**Four in 5 were exposed to smoke in public places.**

**More than 9 in 10 support a ban on smoking in all enclosed public places.**

**One-quarter received training to provide patients with cessation approaches.**

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