

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 - Pharmacy Students 2010 (3rd Year Students Only) Global Health Professions Student Survey (GHPSS)

FACT SHEET

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

The Saudi Arabia Pharmacy students GHPSS was a census of 3rd year Pharmacy students attending four Pharmacy schools in Saudi Arabia conducted in 2010. A total of 63 3rd year students participated in the Saudi Arabia Pharmacy students GHPSS. The overall response rate of all Pharmacy students surveyed was 86.7%.

Prevalence

- 48.8% ever smoked cigarettes (Males = 52.0%, Females = -%)
- 27.3% currently smoke cigarettes (Males = 29.1%, Females = -%)
- 46.4% ever used any form of tobacco other than cigarettes (Males = 49.5%, Females = -%)
- 28.6% currently use any form of tobacco other than cigarettes (Males = 30.5%, Females = -%)
- 28.6% currently smoke shisha
- 15.8% 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

- 33.6% were exposed to second-hand smoke at home, during the past week.
- 58.0% were exposed to second-hand smoke in public places during the past week
- 55.7% reported that their school had a ban on smoking in school buildings and clinics
- 86.5% reported that their school enforced the ban on smoking in school buildings and clinics[†]
- 94.7% thought smoking should be banned in all enclosed public places.
- 81.1% thought tobacco sales to adolescents should be banned
- 82.6% thought there should be a complete ban on advertising tobacco products
- 33.6% of current smokers ever received help/advice to stop smoking cigarettes[†]
- 81.1% were taught about the dangers of smoking during pharmacy school training

Role Model and Cessation Training

- 84.2% thought health professionals serve as role models for their patients
- 84.9% thought health professionals have a role in giving advice about smoking cessation to patients
- 30.5% received formal training in smoking cessation approaches during pharmacy school
- 90.2% thought health professionals should get specific training on cessation techniques

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

Highlights

27.3% currently smoke cigarettes and almost 28.6% currently use other tobacco products

Nearly six in 10 were exposed to smoke in public places

94.7% support a ban on smoking in all enclosed public places

Three in 10 received training in smoking cessation approaches to use with patients

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