

# Trinidad & Tobago - Dental Students (3<sup>rd</sup> Year Students Only) Global Health Professions Student Survey (GHPSS)

## **FACT SHEET . . . . .**

The Trinidad & Tobago dental 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 dental school regarding patient counseling on smoking cessation techniques. This information could be very useful in monitoring and developing Trinidad & Tobago's comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Trinidad & Tobago dental students GHPSS was a census of 3<sup>rd</sup> year dental students attending the 1 dental school in Trinidad & Tobago conducted in 2008. The school response rate was 100% and the student response rate was 66.7%. A total of 18 students participated in the Trinidad & Tobago dental students GHPSS.

### **Prevalence**

- 50.0% ever smoked cigarettes (Females = 30.0%)
- 0.0% currently smoke cigarettes (Females = 0.0%)
- 17.6% ever used any form of tobacco other than cigarettes
- 11.1% currently use any form of tobacco other than cigarettes (Females = 10.0%)

### **Factors Influencing Tobacco Use**

- 33.3% were exposed to second-hand smoke at home, during the past week.
- 55.6% were exposed to second-hand smoke in public places during the past week.
- 72.2% reported that their school had a ban on smoking in school buildings and clinics.
- 46.2% reported that their school enforced the ban on smoking in school buildings and clinics.
- 88.9% thought smoking should be banned in all enclosed public places.
- 100.0% thought tobacco sales to adolescents should be banned.
- 77.8% thought there should be a complete ban on advertising tobacco products.
- 94.4% were taught about the dangers of smoking during dental school training.

### **Role Model and Cessation Training**

- 72.2% thought health professionals serve as role models for their patients.
- 100.0% thought health professionals have a role in giving advice about smoking cessation to patients.
- 5.6% received formal training in smoking cessation approaches during dental school.
- 88.9% thought health professionals should get specific training on cessation techniques.

### **Highlights**

**Half have ever smoked cigarettes and 11.1% currently use other tobacco products.**

**Almost 3 in 5 were exposed to smoke in public places.**

**Close to 9 in 10 support a ban on smoking in all enclosed public places.**

**5.65 received training to provide patients with cessation approaches.**

**Nearly 9 in 10 think health professionals should get specific training on cessation techniques to use with patients.**