

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

## FACT SHEET . . . . .

The Trinidad & Tobago 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 Trinidad & Tobago's comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Trinidad & Tobago medical students GHPSS was a census of 3<sup>rd</sup> year medical students attending the 1 medical school in Trinidad & Tobago conducted in 2008. The school response rate was 100% and the student response rate was 34.2%. A total of 61 students participated in the Trinidad & Tobago medical students GHPSS.

### Prevalence

- 29.5% ever smoked cigarettes (Males = 36.8%, Females = 26.2%)
- 4.9% currently smoke cigarettes (Males = 10.5%, Females = 2.4%)
- 15.3% ever used any form of tobacco other than cigarettes (Males = 11.1%, Females = 17.1%)
- 0.0% currently use any form of tobacco other than cigarettes (Males = 0.0%, Females = 0.0%)
- 23.5% of ever smokers smoked on school premises/property during the past year.
- 11.1% of ever smokers smoked in school buildings during the past year.

### Factors Influencing Tobacco Use

- 27.9% were exposed to second-hand smoke at home, during the past week.
- 63.9% were exposed to second-hand smoke in public places during the past week.
- 71.7% reported that their school had a ban on smoking in school buildings and clinics.
- 23.8% reported that their school enforced the ban on smoking in school buildings and clinics.
- 88.5% thought smoking should be banned in all enclosed public places.
- 93.4% thought tobacco sales to adolescents should be banned.
- 73.8% thought there should be a complete ban on advertising tobacco products.
- 100.0% were taught about the dangers of smoking during medical school training.

### Role Model and Cessation Training

- 57.4% thought health professionals serve as role models for their patients.
- 96.7% thought health professionals have a role in giving advice about smoking cessation to patients.
- 60.7% received formal training in smoking cessation approaches during medical school.
- 98.4% thought health professionals should get specific training on cessation techniques.

### Highlights

**4.9% currently smoke cigarettes and 15.3% have ever used any form of tobacco other than cigarettes.**

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

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

**Three in 5 received training to provide patients with cessation approaches.**

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