

PREVALENCE OF TOBACCO USE AMONG HEALTH PROFESSIONALS OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Ch. Bekbasarova, NGO Public Centre for Tobacco Control and Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic

BACKGROUND

On 01.01.2005 in the medical organizations under of the Ministry of Health Kyrgyz Republic are 12 906 doctors and 30 846 nurses. Health professionals play an important role in distribution of knowledge about the health effects of tobacco by influencing the smoking habits of the population but only few people among Health professionals are participating to the Tobacco control activity. Many Doctors are smokers, but the prevalence of Tobacco use among Health professionals was not studied still. Therefore, it was very important to conduct a national study to estimate the prevalence of tobacco use among health professionals and to involve their to the process for implementation of WHO's FCTC in Kyrgyz Republic.

OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives are to estimate the prevalence of tobacco use among physicians and nurses and their attitudes towards tobacco control in Kyrgyz Republic.

Specific objectives are followings:

Prevalence of current smoker (daily and occasional), former smoker among physicians and nurses by sex and age and professions.

Prevalence of knowledge and attitudes smokers and non-smokers among Health Professionals by sex and age professions and others.

METHODS

The representative national random sample with 4000 Health Professionals from 32 medical organisations was selected using the data base of the Ministries of Health on 2005. Two-stage Random (institute, health professionals) stratified (region) cluster sample was used for the selection of sample. Total sample sizes were 1700 persons for physicians and 2300 for nurses on National level. The rate of survey response were accordingly 84,5% (40,6% male and 59,4% female) and 77,4% (4,7% men and 95,3% female). Excel and SPSS-12 were used for statistical analyses.

RESULTS

The comparative analysis of current smokers among physicians of Kyrgyzstan by age group, sex is presented in the fig.1. Currently smoking prevalence among doctors makes 22%, among male -46 % and 6 % among female.

Fig 1. Prevalence of current smokers among Physicians of Kyrgyz Republic by sex and age group

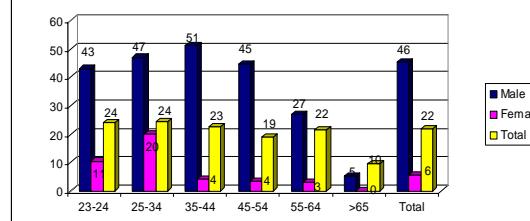
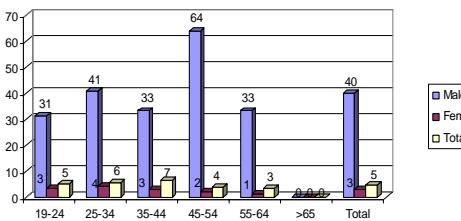


Fig 2. Prevalence of current smokers among Nurses of Kyrgyz Republic by sex and age group



CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The prevalence of smoking among Doctors and Nurses were higher than the prevalence of smoking among Kyrgyz population aged 15 years and older as among male physicians (46% as compared with Kyrgyz man at 42%). The same pictures of prevalence current smokers were found among female doctors and nurses. 5% of female doctors and 3% of nurses are current smokers on compared analyses with general female Kyrgyz population aged 15 years and older (1,5%). The majority of these women were aged 23-34 years old for doctors and nurses.

Thus: The implementation of the effective of smoking prevention and cessation of campaigns among health professionals should be one of high priorities of the National strategy for Tobacco control in Kyrgyzstan for decrease of prevalence of smoking as among Health Professionals and general population.