

L'abitudine al fumo di tabacco nei luoghi di lavoro. Studio in un'Azienda Ospedaliera dell'Italia centrale

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KEY WORDS

Smoking; physicians; nurses; Italy

SUMMARY

«Smoking in the workplace: prevalence in a General Hospital in Central Italy». Smoking is the leading preventable cause of death and the source of numerous problems in the workplace. This study assessed the smoking in health care workers in a general hospital in Central Italy. As part of the health surveillance required by Law No. 626/1994, 2743 employers (40.8% males, 59.2% females; mean age 42.0 ys, SD 9.6 ys) were interviewed. The prevalence of smokers was very high: 36.0% in men and 36.7% in women. When the population was stratified according to occupation, the highest prevalence of smokers was found in ward orderlies (45.2%) and nurses (38.9%) and the lowest in doctors (26.3%). The prevalence of smoking was similar in all occupational divisions – clinical, surgery, diagnostics and administration. This study shows that smoking is more widespread in hospital workers than in an age-matched section of the general population (27.5%). As all health workers should set a positive example in combatting smoking, occupational physicians in charge of health surveillance in hospitals should actively collaborate in smoking dissuasion programmes.

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