

Delphi Consensus on Research Priorities in Tobacco Use and Substance Abuse in Saudi Arabia

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

tobacco use and substance abuse

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Asia - Saudi Arabia

Why was it conducted at all?

In concern to our study, smoking prevalence in Saudi Arabia is much higher in males than in females across different age groups (AlShehri & AlAhmari, 2019). Tobacco smoking and substance abuse are highly interconnected, especially when users have mental health disorders.

What was the objective?

to develop research priorities in tobacco use and substance abuse in Saudi Arabia

What was the outcome?

a ranking list of 6 research topics

How long did the research prioritization take?

December 2019

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

Delphi

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: Delphi round 1: survey asking participants to list the top three research priorities that needed to be addressed in the area of tobacco use and substance abuse prevention and treatment in Saudi Arabia, participants identified 33 research priorities to investigate tobacco use and substance abuse in Saudi Arabia, 33 research priorities were categorized into five primary focus domains. Step 2: Delphi round 2: participants were asked to prioritize the focus domains and then rank the research topics in each domain

Which stakeholders took part?

Health personnel and NGOs: specialty community and preventive medicine, family medicine, psychiatry, dentistry, public health, respiratory care, nursing, social work. Delphi round 1: 75 participants. Delphi round 2: 47 participants.

How were stakeholders recruited?

Participants were recruited via a list of WhatsApp professional groups for those specialized in the prevention and treatment of tobacco use and substance abuse.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.