

#### **4.10 The HSE Tobacco Free Campus Policy: A survey of awareness and implementation.**

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The ITS Tobacco Control Advisory Group in collaboration with the HSE Tobacco Free Ireland Programme (TFIP) aims to improve implementation of the HSE Tobacco Free Campus Policy (2012).

An online questionnaire (26 questions) was circulated to the ITS membership (453 members) via an email link. All responses were anonymous. The response rate was 20.3% (92) with all membership categories represented. Institutions included Acute Hospitals, Ambulatory Care Hubs and Primary Care Centres. 92.22% of respondents were aware of the policy. 72.22% stated that the policy had been implemented in their institution. 74.44% did not know who was responsible for policing the policy. Only 39.56% institutions had a clearly highlighted smoking boundary. 91.01% respondents had not been trained to communicate the policy in a non-confrontational way. 68.13% would not feel safe approaching a smoker to communicate the policy. 88.89% regularly observe patients and 62.22% regularly see staff members smoking on site. 63.33% need to walk through smoke/vapour to access an entrance door to their institution. These results provide a better understanding of the awareness of the policy with 'real world' feedback from ITS members. We plan to share the findings with the HSE TFIP aiming to make our healthcare campuses truly smoke-free.

#### **References**

1. HSE Tobacco Free Campus Policy. HSE. 2012.

***Conflict of Interest:*** None to declare