

RESEARCH ON THE PREVALENCE OF SMOKING AMONG STAFF OF LESKOVAC GENERAL HOSPITAL

Vanja Ilić

Institute of Public Health Leskovac, Leskovac, Serbia

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Introduction: Smoking remains a significant threat to public health globally, acknowledged as an epidemic by health experts. In Serbia, tobacco use has long been a major health risk factor. The 2019 study showed 31.9% of individuals aged 15 and above regularly or occasionally smoked tobacco, including heated products, with higher rates in men (33.9%) than women (30.1%). Daily smoking prevalence was 27.1%, slightly down from 2013, and electronic cigarette usage was 3.3%. The highest tobacco use was among 45-54-year-old, at 41.3%.

This study aims to assess smoking habits among intensive care unit staff at Leskovac General Hospital, their sensitivity to tobacco smoke, and the need for more aggressive public health initiatives.

Objectives and Methods: This cross-sectional study surveyed intensive care unit employees in October 2023, using the Institute of Public Health of Serbia's questionnaire and analyzing data descriptively.

Results: Of 100 respondents, 56% had secondary education, 36% had a university degree, and 8% had higher education. Smoking prevalence varied by role: 12% among doctors, 23% among technicians, and 3% among non-healthcare staff. Daily cigarette consumption averaged 39.5 for women and 44.5 for men. Regarding smoking in healthcare facilities, 18% of doctors advocated for a complete ban, while 26% of technicians suggested designated smoking areas. Non-smokers were highest in the Coronary Unit (11%), while smokers were evenly distributed in orthopedics, gynecology, and surgery (7-10%).

Conclusions: Addressing smoking prevalence is critical for improving public health.

Keywords: smoking,