

Background : Cigarette smoking among soldiers is a public health and socio-economic problem affecting their occupational performance.

Objective : To assess the factors influencing cigarette smoking among soldiers in Kakiri Military Barracks in Wakiso District, Uganda.

Methodology : A cross sectional study was conducted with 426 respondents aged 18 to 54 years selected by multi stage sampling and cluster stratified sampling. Kakiri Military Barracks was selected by simple random sampling. Systemic random sampling of respondents was used. Key informants were purposively selected from Military commanders, health professionals ,legislators and B.A.T (U) officials. Qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection were used. Data were coded, cleaned and entered using EPIDATA 2000 and exported to SPSS 16 . Data were presented in tables, pie - chart and bar charts. Multi logistic regression model was used to determine association between independent and outcome variables. Adjusted Odds Ratio and Crude Odds ratio were used to determine the strength of association. P-values and 95% C.I were used to determine the significance of the association.

Results: The prevalence of cigarette smoking was overall 34.8% (35% of men and 25% of women). Smoking initiation was associated with low education status (OR=5.18, 95% C.I; 1.35-19.8) and deployment abroad (OR= 3.95, 95% C.I 2.26-6.89). Additionally, the estimated cost of a smoking soldier per annum was 926,939 Ugx (\$ 359.6).

Conclusion: Current smoking was noted to be associated with low education status and deployment abroad.

Recommendation: To establish comprehensive tobacco control strategies and smoke free policies in the Military sector of Uganda.