

# South Africa (Ages 13-15) Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) FACT SHEET . . . . .



The South Africa GYTS includes data on prevalence of cigarette and other tobacco use as well as information on five determinants of tobacco use: access/availability and price, exposure to secondhand smoke (SHS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components South Africa could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The South Africa GYTS was a school-based survey of students in grades 8 through 10 conducted in 1999.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of South Africa. At the first stage, schools were selected with probability proportional to enrollment size. At the second stage, classes were randomly selected and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate. The school response rate was 76.9%, the student response rate was 85.5%, and the overall response rate was 65.7%. A total of 2,579 students aged 13-15 years participated in the South Africa GYTS.

## Prevalence

- 44.2% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 52.2%, Girls = 37.7%)
- 24.3% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 29.0%, Girls = 20.8%)
- 17.6% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 20.0%, Girls = 15.3%)
- 11.8% currently use other tobacco products (Boys = 15.7%, Girls = 9.4%)

## Knowledge and Attitudes

- 48.1% think boys and 30.7% think girls who smoke have more friends
- 20.0% think boys and 13.6% think girls who smoke look more attractive

## Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 18.8% usually smoke at home
- 54.8% buy cigarettes in a store
- 77.2% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

## Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

- 43.6% live in homes where others smoke
- 56.1% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
- 53.4% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 57.3% definitely think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 43.4% have one or more parents who smoke
- 14.6% have most or all friends who smoke

## Cessation - Current Smokers

- 69.1% want to stop smoking
- 74.6% tried to stop smoking during the past year
- 57.8% have ever received help to stop smoking

## Media and Advertising

- 79.8% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
- 76.4% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
- 80.7% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
- 14.5% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
- 15.2% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

## School

- 38.7% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
- 29.4% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
- 41.7% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

## Highlights

- Nearly one-quarter of the students currently use some form of tobacco; 17.6% currently smoke cigarettes; 11.8% currently use other forms of tobacco.
- SHS exposure is high – more than 4 in 10 students live in homes where others smoke; over half are exposed to smoke in public places; over 2 in 5 have one or more parents who smoke.
- Almost 6 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Over half the students think smoking should be banned from public places.
- Seven in 10 smokers want to stop.
- One in 7 students has an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.
- Eight in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; more than three-quarters of students saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards in the past 30 days and 4 in 5 students saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days.