

Malawi

2009 Fact Sheet



The **2009 Malawi GSHS** measured alcohol use; dietary behaviors; hygiene; mental health; sexual behaviors; tobacco use; and violence and unintentional injury.

The 2009 Malawi GSHS was a school-based survey of students in Standards 7 and 8. A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce data representative of all students in Standards 7 and 8 in Malawi. 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 100%, the student response rate was 94%, and the overall response rate was 94%. A total of 2359 students participated in the Malawi GSHS. Students self-reported their responses to each question on a computer scannable answer sheet. For comparison purposes, only students aged 13- 15 years are included in the analyses for this fact sheet.

Results for students aged 13-15 years	Total	Boys	Girls
Alcohol Use			
Percentage of students who drank at least one drink containing alcohol on one or more of the past 30 days	3.9 (1.9-8.1)	5.3 (2.7-10.1)	2.5 (0.9-7.1)
Among students who ever had a drink of alcohol (other than a few sips), the percentage who had their first drink of alcohol before age 14 years	89.3 (81.8-94.0)	86.6 (75.5-93.1)	*
Percentage of students who drank so much alcohol that they were really drunk one or more times during their life	3.2 (1.4-7.0)	3.4 (1.6-7.2)	2.3 (0.8-6.4)
Dietary Behaviours			
Percentage of students who were underweight (< -2SD from median for BMI for age and sex)	5.2 (3.2-8.4)	8.0 (4.8-13.1)	2.3 (1.2-4.4)
Percentage of students who were overweight (> +1SD from median for BMI for age and sex)	6.0 (4.2-8.6)	3.6 (2.1-6.2)	8.6 (5.8-12.4)
Percentage of students who were obese (> +2SD from median for BMI for age and sex)	0.3 (0.1-0.9)	0.4 (0.1-2.1)	0.2 (0.1-0.3)
Hygiene			
Percentage of students who usually cleaned or brushed their teeth less than one time per day during the past 30 days	5.9 (3.9-8.7)	6.5 (4.1-10.4)	5.1 (3.2-8.1)
Percentage of students who never or rarely washed their hands after using the toilet or latrine during the past 30 days	5.4 (3.2-8.8)	6.3 (3.8-10.3)	4.2 (1.8-9.6)
Mental Health			
Percentage of students who ever seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months	11.6 (8.1-16.4)	10.1 (6.6-15.3)	12.7 (8.8-17.9)
Percentage of students who actually attempted suicide one or more times during the past 12 months	11.3 (6.4-19.2)	11.4 (6.0-20.7)	11.0 (6.3-18.5)
Percentage of students who had no close friends	7.4 (5.6-9.6)	7.9 (6.4-9.8)	6.8 (4.0-11.5)
Sexual Behaviours			
Percentage of students who ever had sexual intercourse	22.9 (18.1-28.5)	28.1 (22.2-34.9)	16.5 (11.6-23.1)
Among students who ever had sexual intercourse, the percentage who had sexual intercourse for the first time before age 14 years	83.3 (73.7-89.9)	82.2 (70.6-89.8)	*
Among students who ever had sexual intercourse, the percentage who used a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse	65.8 (56.3-74.1)	59.2 (50.1-67.7)	*



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Results for students aged 13-15 years	Total	Boys	Girls
Tobacco Use			
Percentage of students who smoked cigarettes on one or more days during the past 30 days	4.9 (3.1-7.5)	5.9 (3.8-9.0)	3.8 (2.1-6.7)
Among students who ever smoked cigarettes, the percentage who first tried a cigarette before age 14 years	87.9 (75.7-94.4)	90.4 (77.6-96.2)	*
Percentage of students who reported people smoked in their presence on one or more days during the past seven days	41.8 (38.0-45.8)	41.6 (35.9-47.7)	42.0 (36.9-47.3)
Violence and Unintentional Injury			
Percentage of students who were in a physical fight one or more times during the past 12 months	23.0 (19.4-27.0)	23.7 (19.2-28.9)	20.8 (16.2-26.2)
Percentage of students who were seriously injured one or more times during the past 12 months	30.9 (27.4-34.6)	30.6 (26.5-35.0)	30.5 (25.6-35.9)
Percentage of students who were bullied on one or more days during the past 30 days	44.9 (40.3-49.7)	42.9 (37.3-48.7)	46.5 (41.0-52.1)

* Indicates less than 100 students.

For additional information, please contact:

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