

Syria (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



The Syria 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 Syria could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Syria GYTS was a school-based survey of students in 7 through 9 conducted in 2002. A two-stage cluster sample

design was used to produce representative data for all of Syria. 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 class response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 98.3%, and the overall response rate was 98.3%. A total of 4,531 students aged 13-15 participated in the Syria GYTS.

Prevalence

- 11.0% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 14.9%, Girls = 4.9%)
- 20.0% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 22.9%, Girls = 15.0%)
- 6.3% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 8.1%, Girls = 3.1%)
- 17.6% currently use other tobacco products (Boys = 19.2%, Girls = 14.5%)
- 9.4% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

- 22.4% think boys and 13.5% think girls who smoke have more friends
- 10.8% think boys and 9.8% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 19.7% usually smoke at home
- 28.4% buy cigarettes in a store
- 79.1% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

- 54.5% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
- 49.7% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
- 80.0% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 80.6% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 52.1% have one or more parents who smoke
- 5.1% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

- 70.6% want to stop smoking
- 68.8% tried to stop smoking during the past year
- 83.1% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

- 88.9% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
- 63.0% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
- 56.4% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
- 10.5% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
- 7.4% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

- 54.6% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
- 39.8% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
- 46.3% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 1 in 5 students currently use any form of tobacco; 6.3% currently smoke cigarettes; 17.6% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- SHS exposure is high – over half of students live in homes where others smoke in their presence; nearly half of students are exposed to smoke in public places; over 50% have parents who smoke.
- Eight in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Eight in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Seven in 10 smokers want to quit.
- 10.5% of students have an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.
- Almost 9 in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; 6 in 10 students saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards and in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days.