

Jamaica (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



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

The Jamaica GYTS was a school-based survey of students in grades 7 through 13 conducted in 2000.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for Jamaica. 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 100.0%, the class response rate was 100.0%, the student response rate was 86.5%, and the overall response rate was 86.5%. A total of 1,256 students aged 13-15 participated in the Jamaica GYTS.

Prevalence

33.0% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 39.3%, Girl = 27.6%)
 19.3% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 24.4%, Girl = 14.5%)
 15.8% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 20.3%, Girl = 11.8%)
 7.8% currently use other tobacco products (Boy = 10.5%, Girl = 5.4%)
 15.2% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

31.5% think boys and 17.0% think girls who smoke have more friends
 8.6% think boys and 7.4% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

51.4% usually smoke at home
 35.0% buy cigarettes in a store
 74.4% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

30.7% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 59.2% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 70.6% think smoking should be banned from public places
 68.1% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 7.8% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

79.8% want to stop smoking
 70.6% tried to stop smoking during the past year
 56.1% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

74.2% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
 64.7% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
 60.4% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
 12.7% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
 8.1% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

40.4% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
 26.7% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
 39.3% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 19.3% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 15.8% currently smoke cigarettes; 7.8% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- SHS exposure is high – 3 in 10 students live in homes where others smoke, and 6 in 10 students are exposed to smoke around others outside of the home.
- Nearly 7 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Seven in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Four in 5 current smokers want to stop smoking.
- One in 8 students has an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.
- Three-quarters of the students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; over 6 in 10 students saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards and in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days.