

Bulgaria (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



The Bulgaria 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, secondhand smoke exposure (SHS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Bulgaria could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Bulgaria GYTS was a school-based survey of students in 7, 8 and 9 grades conducted in 2008. A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for Bulgaria.

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%, the student response rate was 87.3%, and the overall response rate was 87.3%. A total of 3,587 students participated in the Bulgaria GYTS of which 3,241 were aged 13 to 15 years.

Prevalence

- 58.8% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 56.1%, Girls = 61.3%)
- 29.3% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 26.4%, Girls = 31.8%)
- 28.2% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 24.4%, Girls = 31.6%)
- 8.8% currently use other tobacco products (Boys = 10.5%, Girls = 6.8%)
- 21.2% ever smokers initiated smoking before age ten (Boys = 26.6%, Girls = 16.3%)
- 31.2% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year (Boys = 27.0%, Girls = 36.4%)

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 36.7% usually smoke in public places
- 68.6% buy cigarettes in a store
- 67.9% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

- 63.9% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
- 70.1% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
- 63.4% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 68.1% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 71.9% have one or more parents who smoke
- 29.6% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

- 49.1% want to stop smoking
- 57.8% tried to stop smoking during the past year
- 59.9% have ever received help to stop smoking
- 15.6% of current smokers who always have or feel like having a cigarette first thing in the morning

Media and Advertising

- 87.5% saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days
- 63.6% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards in the past 30 days
- 16.4% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
- 10.2% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

- 68.7% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
- 51.8% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
- 55.2% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- Approximately 3 in 10 students currently use any form of tobacco; 28.2% currently smoke cigarettes; less than 1 in 10 currently use some other form of tobacco.
- SHS exposure is very high – 63.9% of the students live in homes where others smoke in their presence, over 7 in 10 students are around others who smoke in places outside of their home; more than 7 in 10 students have one or more parent who smoke and almost 1/3 have most or all friends who smoke.
- About 6 in 10 students think smoking should be totally banned from public places.
- Nearly 1/2 of students who are currently smoking indicated that they want to stop smoking now; about 6 in 10 students currently smoking tried to stop during the past year.
- Over 8 in 10 students saw anti-smoking messages while 63.6% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards.