

FYR Macedonia (Ages 13-15) Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) FACT SHEET



The FYR Macedonia 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 FYR Macedonia could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The FYR Macedonia GYTS was a school-based survey of students in grade 7 and 8, and 1st year conducted in 2003.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of FYR Macedonia. 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 96.0%, the class response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 88.0%, and the overall response rate was 84.5%. A total of 2,987 students aged 13-15 participated in the FYR Macedonia GYTS.

Prevalence

- 23.6% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 26.3%, Girls = 21.0%)
- 9.0% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 9.6%, Girls = 8.2%)
- 7.7% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 8.5%, Girls = 6.8%)
- 1.4% currently daily cigarette smokers (Boys = 2.2%, Girls = 0.6%)
- 2.4% currently smoke cigars (Boys = 2.9%, Girls = 1.9%)
- 19.6% ever smokers initiated smoking before age ten (Boys = 22.3%, Girls = 16.7%)
- 16.3% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year (Boys = 14.4%, Girls = 17.7%)

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 14.9% usually smoke at home
- 59.6% buy cigarettes in a store
- 73.0% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

- 91.9% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
- 80.2% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
- 86.7% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 71.9% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 65.9% have one or more parents who smoke
- 13.1% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

- 63.5% want to stop smoking
- 78.4% tried to stop smoking during the past year
- 92.9% have ever received help to stop smoking
- 8.9% always have or feel like having a cigarette first thing in the morning

Media and Advertising

- 85.7% saw anti-smoking media messages vs. 87.1% saw pro media messages on TV
- 54.9% saw anti messages vs. 74.5% saw pro messages on billboards
- 70.6% saw anti smoking ads vs. 82.3% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines
- 31.8% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
- 9.7% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

- 55.6% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
- 44.6% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
- 52.0% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 9% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 7.7% currently smoke cigarettes; 1.4% currently daily cigarette smokers; 2.4% currently smoke cigars; 16.3% never smokers likely to initiate smoking next year.
- SHS exposure is very high – over 9 in 10 students live in homes where others smoke in their presence; 8 in 10 are exposed to smoke in public places; Nearly two-thirds have one or more parents who smoke.
- More than 7 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Almost 9 in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Over 3 in 5 current smokers want to quit.
- More than 3 in 10 students have an object with a cigarette logo.
- Over 8 in 10 saw anti-smoking messages on TV vs. close to 9 in 10 saw pro-smoking messages; Over half saw anti smoking messages on billboards vs. three-quarters saw pro smoking messages; 7 in 10 saw anti ads in newspapers vs. over 8 in 10 saw pro ads.