

Romania (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



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

The Romania GYTS was a school-based survey of students in grades 6th, 7th, and 8th conducted in 2009.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for Romania. 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 94.1%, and the overall response rate was 94.1%. A total of 2,982 students aged 13-15 participated in the Romania GYTS.

Prevalence

- 41.2% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 47.1%, Girls = 35.4%)
- 14.4% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 18.4%, Girls = 10.4%)
- 13.5% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 17.6%, Girls = 9.5%)
- 2.5% used any form of tobacco other than cigarettes in the past 30 days (Boys = 3.0%, Girls = 1.9%)
- 38.3% ever smokers initiated smoking before age ten (Boys = 46.6%, Girls = 27.7%)
- 30.5% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year (Boys = 24.5%, Girls = 35.0%)

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 10.0% usually smoke at home
- 71.1% buy cigarettes in a store
- 77.3% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

- 52.8% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
- 59.1% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
- 74.7% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 59.2% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 59.1% have one or more parents who smoke
- 13.6% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

- 37.7% want to stop smoking
- 55.8% tried to stop smoking during the past year
- 78.3% have ever received help to stop smoking
- 7.8% always have or feel like having a cigarette first thing in the morning

Media and Advertising

- 96.2% saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days
- 58.3% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards in the past 30 days
- 53.0% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days
- 12.1% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
- 7.6% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

- 60.2% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
- 52.0% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke

Highlights

- 14.4% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 13.5% currently smoke cigarettes; 2.5% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- SHS exposure is high – half the students live in homes where others smoke, and 6 in 10 students are exposed to smoke around others outside of the home; 3 in 5 students have at least one parent who smokes.
- Six in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Three-quarters of the students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- More than one-third of the current smokers want to stop smoking.
- Over 1 in 10 students have an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.
- Nearly all of the students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; 6 in 10 students saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards and over half saw pro-tobacco ads in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days.