

Tonga 2010 (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



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

The Tonga GYTS was a school-based survey of students in Forms 1, 2 and 3 conducted in 2010.

All schools containing Form 1, Form 2, and Form 3 that have 40 students or more were selected for survey. Within the selected school, all classes of Form 1, Form 2 and Form 3 were split between GYTS and Global School Health Survey (GSHS). All students in selected classes were eligible to participate. A total of 2,189 students participated in the Tonga GYTS of which 1,628 were ages 13 to 15 years. The overall response rate of all students surveyed was 80.5%.

Prevalence

- 45.1% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 58.2%, Girls = 35.3%)
- 35.7% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 44.9%, Girls = 28.0%)
- 27.1% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 37.5%, Girls = 18.9%)
- 21.6% currently use other tobacco products (Boys = 24.3%, Girls = 18.2%)
- 34.9% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

- 50.6% think boys and 42.9% think girls who smoke have more friends
- 19.5% think boys and 16.5% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 28.7% usually smoke at home
- 29.0% buy cigarettes in a store
- 59.3% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

- 56.8% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
- 67.9% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
- 46.3% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 54.0% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 48.0% have one or more parents who smoke
- 14.8% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

- 75.9% want to stop smoking
- 89.0% tried to stop smoking during the past year
- 91.0% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

- 80.7% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
- 20.6% have an object with a cigarette brand logo

School

- 57.6% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
- 47.3% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
- 61.9% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 35.7% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 27.1% currently smoke cigarettes; 21.6% currently uses some other form of tobacco
- SHS exposure – 56.8% of students live in homes where others smoke, and over two-thirds of the students are exposed to smoke around others outside of the home; close to half the students have at least one parent who smokes
- 54.0% of students think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 46.3% of students think smoking in public places should be banned
- Three-quarters of the current smokers want to stop smoking
- One in five students has an object with a cigarette brand logo on it