GYTS Objectives

The Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS), a component of the Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS), is a global standard for systematically monitoring youth tobacco use (smoking and smokeless) and tracking key tobacco control indicators.

GYTS is a nationally representative school-based survey of students in grades associated with 13 to 15 years of age and is designed to produce cross-sectional estimates for each country. GYTS uses a standard core questionnaire, sample design, and data collection protocol. It assists countries in fulfilling their obligations under the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) to generate comparable data within and across countries. WHO has developed MPOWER, a package of selected demand reduction measures contained in the WHO FCTC:

- Monitor tobacco use & prevention policies
- Protect people from tobacco smoke
- Offer help to quit tobacco use
- Warn about the dangers of tobacco
- Enforce bans on tobacco advertising, promotion, & sponsorship
- Raise taxes on tobacco

GYTS Methodology

GYTS uses a global standardized methodology that includes a two-stage sample design with schools selected with a probability proportional to enrollment size. The classes within selected schools are chosen randomly and all students in selected classes are eligible to participate in the survey. The survey uses a standard core questionnaire with a set of optional questions that permits adaptation to meet the needs of the country on tobacco use and key tobacco control indicators. The questionnaire consists of the following topics: tobacco use (smoking and smokeless), cessation, secondhand smoke (SHS), pro- and anti-tobacco media and advertising, access and availability to obtain tobacco products, and knowledge and attitudes regarding tobacco. The questionnaire is self-administered; using scannable paper-based bubble sheets, it is anonymous to ensure confidentiality.

In Egypt, GYTS was conducted in 2014 by the Ministry of Health and Population. A total of 2,471 eligible students in grades 1st - 3rd preparatory completed the survey, of which 2,141 were aged 13-15 years. The overall response rate of all students surveyed was 89.2%.

GYTS Highlights

TOBACCO USE
- 13.6% overall, 18.1% of boys, and 8.2% of girls currently used any tobacco products.
- 10.1% overall, 16.3% of boys, and 3.1% of girls currently smoked tobacco.
- 4.8% overall, 8.3% of boys, and 0.8% of girls currently smoked cigarettes.
- 4.1% overall, 2.7% of boys, and 5.4% of girls currently used smokeless tobacco.

CESSATION
- 4 in 10 current smokers tried to stop smoking in the past 12 months.
- 7 in 10 current smokers want to stop smoking.

SECONDHAND SMOKE
- 34.9% of students were exposed to tobacco smoke at home.
- 55.2% of students were exposed to tobacco smoke inside enclosed public places.

ACCESS & AVAILABILITY
- 84.5% of current cigarette smokers obtained cigarettes by buying them from a store, shop, street vendor, or kiosk.
- Among current cigarette smokers who bought cigarettes, 86.1% were not prevented from buying them because of their age.

MEDIA
- 6 in 10 students noticed anti-tobacco messages in the media.
- 6 in 10 students noticed tobacco advertisements or promotions when visiting points of sale.
- 1 in 10 students own something with a tobacco brand logo on it.

KNOWLEDGE & ATTITUDES
- 70.6% of students definitely thought other people’s tobacco smoking is harmful to them.
- 86.0% of students favor banning smoking inside enclosed public places.
Data have been weighted to be nationally representative of all students ages 13-15 years. Percentages reflect the prevalence of each indicator in each group, not the distribution across groups. *Indicates estimate based on less than 35 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.