

global youth tobacco survey

Country fact sheets

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, developed the Global Youth Tobacco Survey to track tobacco use among youth across countries using a common methodology and core questionnaire. Information from the Survey is compiled within the participating country by a Research Coordinator nominated by the Ministry of Health, and technically reviewed by WHO and CDC. The content has not otherwise been edited by WHO or CDC.

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**World Health
Organization**

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean



Syrian Arab Republic (Ages 13-15) Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)



FACT SHEET

The Syrian Arab Republic 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, environmental tobacco smoke exposure (ETS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Syrian Arab Republic could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Syrian Arab Republic GYTS was a school-based survey of students in 7-9, conducted in 2002. A two-stage

cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Syrian Arab Republic. 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%, the student response rate was 98.3%, and the overall response rate was 98.3%. A total of 4,531 students participated in the Syrian Arab Republic GYTS.

Prevalence

- 11.0% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 14.9%, Girls = 4.9%)
- 20.0% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 22.9%, Girls = 15.0%)
- 6.3% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 8.1%, Girls = 3.1%)
- 17.6% currently use other tobacco products (Boys = 19.2%, Girls = 14.5%)
- 9.4% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

- 22.4% think boys and 13.5% think girls who smoke have more friends
- 10.8% think boys and 9.8% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 19.7% usually smoke at home
- 28.4% buy cigarettes in a store
- 79.1% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Environmental Tobacco Smoke

- 54.5% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
- 49.7% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
- 80.0% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 80.6% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 52.1% have one or more parents who smoke
- 5.1% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

- 70.6% want to stop smoking
- 68.8% tried to stop smoking during the past year
- 83.1% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

- 88.9% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
- 63.0% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
- 56.4% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
- 10.5% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
- 7.4% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

- 54.6% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
- 39.8% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
- 46.3% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 1 in 5 students currently use any form of tobacco; 6.3% currently smoke cigarettes; almost 18% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- ETS exposure is high – over half of students live in homes where others smoke in their presence; nearly half of students are exposed to smoke in public places; over 50% have parents who smoke.
- Over 8 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- 8 in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- More than 7 in 10 smokers want to quit.
- Almost 9 in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; over 6 in 10 students saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards in the past 30 days and over half of students saw pro-cigarette ads on newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days.