

# 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



**CENTERS FOR DISEASE  
CONTROL AND PREVENTION**

# 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 7-10, conducted in 2007. 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 83.7%, and the overall response rate was 83.7%. A total of 1,621 students aged 13-15 participated in the Syrian Arab Republic GYTS.

### Prevalence

- 27.4% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 40.0%, Girl = 15.0%)
- 38.0% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 48.9%, Girl = 26.8%)
- 12.3% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 19.1%, Girl = 5.9%)
- 25.0% currently smoke shisha (Boy = 32.5%, Girl = 17.4%)
- 34.7% currently use other tobacco products (Boy = 44.9%, Girl = 24.5%)
- 14.7% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

### Knowledge and Attitudes

- 28.0% think boys and 22.3% think girls who smoke have more friends
- 22.9% think boys and 16.0% think girls who smoke look more attractive

### Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 43.6% usually smoke at home
- 21.2% buy cigarettes in a store

### Environmental Tobacco Smoke

- 60.1% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
- 58.4% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
- 77.4% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 72.4% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 56.1% have one or more parents who smoke
- 5.5% have most or all friends who smoke

### Cessation - Current Smokers

- 79.7% want to stop smoking
- 73.1% tried to stop smoking during the past year
- 77.9% have ever received help to stop smoking

### Media and Advertising

- 84.7% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
- 59.2% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
- 54.0% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
- 12.9% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
- 11.8% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

### School

- 60.5% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
- 40.5% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
- 56.5% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

### Highlights

- Over one-third of the students currently use any form of tobacco; 12.3% of students currently smoke cigarettes; 25% currently smoke shisha; 34.7% of the students currently use some other form of tobacco.
- ETS exposure is high – Six in 10 students live in homes where others smoke in their presence; More than half are exposed to smoke in public places; Over half of the students have at least one parent who smokes.
- Seven in 10 of students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Over three-quarters of the students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Eight in 10 smokers want to quit.
- Over 8 in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; More than half of the students saw pro-cigarette ads in the past 30 days.