

FYR Macedonia (Ages 13-15) Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)



FACT SHEET

The Macedonia 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, secondhand smoke exposure (SHS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Macedonia could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Macedonia GYTS was a school-based survey of students in 7 and 8 grades and 1st and 2nd year conducted in 2008.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for Macedonia. 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%, the student response rate was 90.1%, and the overall response rate was 90.1%. A total of 5,824 students participated in the Macedonia GYTS of which 4,388 were aged 13 to 15 years.

Prevalence

- 26.0% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 27.7%, Girls = 24.2%)
- 11.8% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 11.9%, Girls = 11.7%)
- 9.8% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 9.7%, Girls = 9.8%)
- 2.3% currently smoke cigars (Boys = 2.6%, Girls = 2.0%)
- 16.3% ever smokers initiated smoking before age ten (Boys = 19.7%, Girls = 12.6%)
- 16.7% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year (Boys = 15.4%, Girls = 17.9%)

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 40.8% usually smoke at social events
- 65.1% buy cigarettes in a store
- 81.4% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

- 67.5% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
- 66.0% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
- 86.4% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 73.7% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 58.8% have one or more parents who smoke
- 14.6% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

- 66.2% want to stop smoking
- 77.5% tried to stop smoking during the past year
- 84.8% have ever received help to stop smoking
- 16.5% always have or feel like having a cigarette first thing in the morning

Media and Advertising

- 92.4% saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days
- 58.4% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards in the past 30 days
- 65.2% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days
- 24.1% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
- 10.4% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

- 44.0% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
- 40.2% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
- 45.1% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 11.8% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 9.8% currently smoke cigarettes; 2.3% currently smoke cigars.
- SHS exposure is very high – more than two-thirds of students live in homes where others smoke in their presence, two-thirds of students are around others who smoke in places outside of their home; nearly 6 in 10 students have one or more parent who smokes and over 1 in 10 have most or all friends who smoke.
- More than 8 in 10 students think smoking should be totally banned from public places.
- Two-thirds of the students who are currently smoking indicated that they want to stop smoking now; over three-quarters of the students currently smoking tried to stop during the past year.
- Close to one-quarter of students has an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.
- Over 9 in 10 of the students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; almost 3 in 5 students saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards and close to two-thirds saw pro-tobacco ads in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days.