


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 covers the following topics: tobacco use (smoking and smokeless), cessation, secondhand smoke (SHS), pro- and anti-tobacco media and advertising, access to and availability of tobacco products, and knowledge and attitudes regarding tobacco use. The questionnaire is self-administered; using scannable paper-based bubble sheets, it is anonymous to ensure confidentiality.

In Palau, GYTS was conducted as a census in 2013 by Prevention Unit. A total of 1,574 eligible students in grades 6-12 completed the survey, of which 649 were aged 13-15 years. Data are reported for students aged 13-15.

GYTS Highlights

TOBACCO USE

- 45.4% of students, 54.1% of boys, and 36.7% of girls currently used any tobacco products.
- 39.5% of students, 49.1% of boys, and 29.8% of girls currently smoked tobacco.
- 32.3% of students, 42.7% of boys, and 22.1% of girls currently smoked cigarettes.
- 19.5% of students, 21.7% of boys, and 17.0% of girls currently used smokeless tobacco.

CESSATION

- Almost 8 in 10 current smokers wanted to stop smoking now.

SECONDHAND SMOKE

- 44.7% of students were exposed to tobacco smoke at home.

ACCESS & AVAILABILITY

- 16.0% of current cigarette smokers obtained cigarettes by buying them from a store, shop, or gas station.
- Among current cigarette smokers who bought cigarettes, 60.4% were not prevented from buying them because of their age.

MEDIA

- 1 in 4 students owned something with a tobacco brand logo on it.

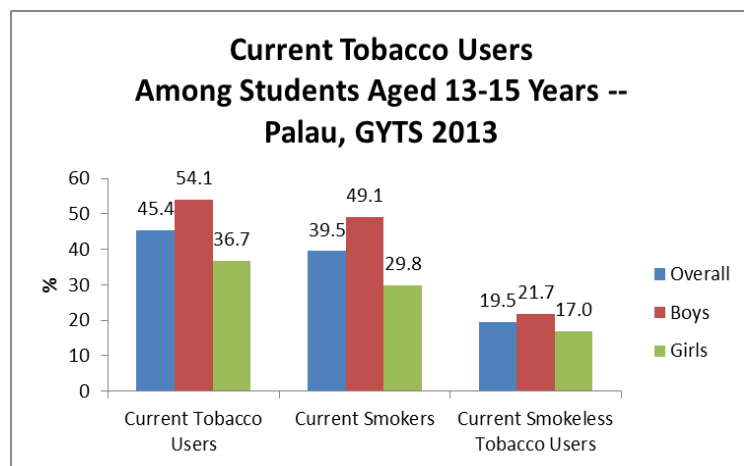
KNOWLEDGE & ATTITUDES

- 76.8% of students definitely thought other people's tobacco smoking is harmful to them.



TOBACCO USE

	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
SMOKED TOBACCO			
Current tobacco smokers ¹	39.5	49.1	29.8
Current cigarette smokers ²	32.3	42.7	22.1
Frequent cigarette smokers ³	6.3	10.9	1.6
Current smokers of other tobacco ⁴	18.5	23.6	13.5
Ever tobacco smokers ⁵	65.3	72.1	58.3
Ever cigarette smokers ⁶	61.7	68.8	54.6
Ever smokers of other tobacco ⁷	37.1	42.8	31.0
SMOKELESS TOBACCO			
Current smokeless tobacco users ⁸	19.5	21.7	17.0
TOBACCO USE (smoked and/or smokeless)			
Current tobacco users ⁹	45.4	54.1	36.7
Ever tobacco users ¹⁰	65.3	72.1	58.3
SUSCEPTIBILITY			
Never tobacco users susceptible to tobacco use in the future ¹¹	10.0	12.2	8.5



CESSATION

	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Current smokers who want to stop smoking now	78.1	77.1	81.3
Current smokers who thought they would be able to stop smoking if they wanted to	83.8	81.1	88.1

SECONDHAND SMOKE

	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Exposure to tobacco smoke at home [†]	44.7	47.0	42.6

ACCESS & AVAILABILITY

	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Current cigarette smokers who obtained cigarettes by buying them from a store, shop, or gas station ¹²	16.0	23.8	0.0
Current cigarette smokers who were not prevented from buying cigarettes because of their age ¹³	60.4	60.3	--

MEDIA

	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Students who owned something with a tobacco brand logo on it	24.7	27.8	21.6

KNOWLEDGE & ATTITUDES

	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Students who definitely thought other people's tobacco smoking is harmful to them	76.8	70.6	83.0

¹ Smoked tobacco anytime during the past 30 days. ² Smoked cigarettes anytime during the past 30 days. ³ Smoked cigarettes on 20 or more days of the past 30 days. ⁴ Smoked tobacco other than cigarettes anytime during the past 30 days. ⁵ Ever smoked any tobacco (cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, little cigars), even one or two puffs. ⁶ Ever smoked cigarettes, even one or two puffs. ⁷ Ever smoked tobacco (cigars, cigarillos, little cigars) other than cigarettes, even one or two puffs. ⁸ Used smokeless tobacco anytime during the past 30 days. ⁹ Smoked tobacco and/or used smokeless tobacco anytime during the past 30 days. ¹⁰ Ever smoked tobacco (cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, little cigars). ¹¹ Susceptible to future tobacco use includes those who answered "Definitely yes", "Probably yes", or "Probably not" to using tobacco (cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, little cigars) if one of their best friends offered it to them or those who answered "Definitely yes", "Probably yes", or "Probably not" to using tobacco during the next 12 months. ¹² How cigarettes were obtained the last time respondents smoked cigarettes in the past 30 days. ¹³ Of those who tried to buy cigarettes during the past 30 days. [†] During the past 7 days.

NOTE: Students refer to persons aged 13-15 years who are enrolled in school. A census was done of all schools containing students in grades 6-12, and all students within all schools were surveyed. Percentages reflect the prevalence of each indicator in each group, not the distribution across groups.

--Estimates based on unweighted cases less than 35 are suppressed.