

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 cross-sectional, nationally representative school-based survey of students in grades associated with 13 to 15 years. 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 technical 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 countries can adapt to measure and track 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 Philippines, GYTS was conducted in 2015 by the Epidemiology Bureau of the Department of Health. The overall response rate was 82.7%. A total of 8,789 eligible students in grades 7 – 10 (or 4th year) completed the survey, of which 5,885 were aged 13-15 years. Data are reported for students aged 13-15 years.

GYTS Highlights

TOBACCO USE

- 16.0% of students, 22.2% of boys, and 10.4% of girls currently used any tobacco products.
- 14.5% of students, 20.5% of boys, and 9.1% of girls currently smoked tobacco.
- 12.0% of students, 17.6% of boys, and 7.0% of girls currently smoked cigarettes.
- 2.5% of students, 2.9% of boys, and 2.1% of girls currently used smokeless tobacco.

ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

- 42.7% of students ever heard of electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes.
- 11.7% of students ever tried or experimented with electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes, even one or two puffs.

CESSATION

- More than 8 in 10 current smokers tried to stop smoking in the past 12 months.
- 9 in 10 current smokers wanted to stop smoking now.

SECONDHAND SMOKE

- 38.3% of students were exposed to tobacco smoke at home.
- 72.5% of students saw anyone smoking within school premises.

ACCESS & AVAILABILITY

- 79.4% of current cigarette smokers obtained cigarettes by buying them from a store, shop, street vendor, or kiosk.
- Among current cigarette smokers who tried to buy cigarettes, 47.5% were not prevented from buying them because of their age.

MEDIA

- More than 7 in 10 students noticed anti-tobacco messages in the media.
- 5 in 10 students noticed tobacco advertisements or promotions when visiting points of sale.
- 1 in 10 students owned something with a tobacco brand logo on it.

KNOWLEDGE & ATTITUDES

- 63.1% of students definitely thought other people's tobacco smoking is harmful to them.
- 93.1% of students favored banning smoking inside enclosed public places.



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TOBACCO USE

SMOKED TOBACCO	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Current tobacco smokers ¹	14.5	20.5	9.1
Current cigarette smokers ²	12.0	17.6	7.0
Frequent cigarette smokers ³	0.7	1.3	0.3
Current smokers of other tobacco ⁴	3.4	4.3	2.5
Ever tobacco smokers ⁵	31.6	42.1	22.0
Ever cigarette smokers ⁶	28.1	38.4	18.7
Ever smokers of other tobacco ⁷	7.7	10.1	5.5

SMOKELESS TOBACCO

SMOKELESS TOBACCO	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Current smokeless tobacco users ⁸	2.5	2.9	2.1
Ever smokeless tobacco users ⁹	4.9	5.8	4.1

TOBACCO USE (smoked and/or smokeless)

TOBACCO USE (smoked and/or smokeless)	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Current tobacco users ¹⁰	16.0	22.2	10.4
Ever tobacco users ¹¹	34.1	44.6	24.4

SUSCEPTIBILITY

SUSCEPTIBILITY	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Never tobacco users susceptible to tobacco use in the future ¹²	13.2	15.1	12.0
Never smokers who thought they might enjoy smoking a cigarette ¹³	8.1	11.6	5.8

AGE OF SMOKING INITIATION

AGE OF SMOKING INITIATION	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Ever cigarette smokers who first tried a cigarette at age 7 or younger years old	12.0	10.7	14.5

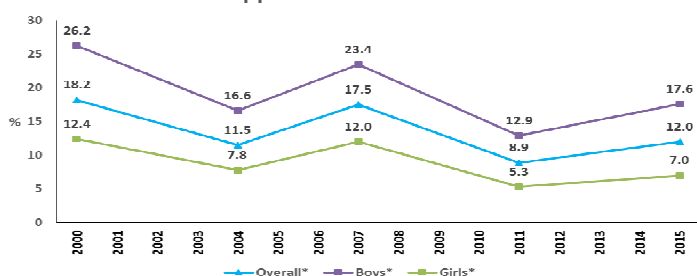
USUAL SMOKING PLACE

USUAL SMOKING PLACE	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Current cigarette smokers who usually smoke at school	10.9	8.4	16.2

SIGNS OF SMOKING DEPENDENCE

SIGNS OF SMOKING DEPENDENCE	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Current smokers who are showing signs of smoking dependence ¹⁴	35.9	36.4	34.5

Current Cigarette Smokers Among Students Aged 13-15 Years -- Philippines GYTS 2000-2015



ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Ever heard of electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes	42.7	48.7	37.2
Ever tried or experimented electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes	11.7	15.7	8.1

CESSATION

CESSATION	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Current smokers who tried to stop smoking in the past 12 months	82.0	80.2	86.7
Current smokers who want to stop smoking now	90.2	90.7	88.6
Current smokers who thought they would be able to stop smoking if they wanted to	92.2	91.8	93.4
Current smokers who have ever received help/advice from a program or professional to stop smoking	33.7	31.7	38.2

SECONDHAND SMOKE

SECONDHAND SMOKE	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Exposure to tobacco smoke at home [†]	38.3	36.3	40.2
Exposure to tobacco smoke inside any enclosed public place [†]	54.2	50.4	57.7
Exposure to tobacco smoke at any outdoor public place [†]	66.1	62.2	69.7
Students who saw anyone smoking inside the school building or outside on school property ^{††}	72.5	70.5	74.4

ACCESS & AVAILABILITY

ACCESS & AVAILABILITY	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Current cigarette smokers who obtained cigarettes by buying them from a store, shop, street vendor, or kiosk ¹⁵	79.4	80.7	76.4
Current cigarette smokers who were not prevented from buying cigarettes because of their age ¹⁶	47.5	45.2	52.4
Current cigarette smokers who bought cigarettes as individual sticks ¹⁷	81.0	83.2	75.8

MEDIA

MEDIA	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Students who noticed tobacco advertisements or promotions at points of sale ¹⁸	50.6	51.5	49.7
Students who saw anyone using tobacco on television, videos, or movies ¹⁹	70.1	71.3	68.9
Students who were ever offered a free tobacco product from a tobacco company representative	9.0	11.1	7.0
Students who owned something with a tobacco brand logo on it	8.7	11.2	6.5

ANTI-TOBACCO ADVERTISING

ANTI-TOBACCO ADVERTISING	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Students who noticed anti-tobacco messages in the media ^{††}	71.6	68.5	74.6
Students who noticed anti-tobacco messages at sporting or community events ²⁰	53.2	53.8	52.6
Current smokers who thought about quitting because of a warning label ²¹	62.6	59.7	68.3
Students who were taught in school about the dangers of tobacco use in the past 12 months	67.1	63.5	70.4

KNOWLEDGE & ATTITUDES

KNOWLEDGE & ATTITUDES	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Students who definitely thought it is difficult to quit once someone starts smoking tobacco	24.0	21.2	26.6
Students who thought smoking tobacco helps people feel more comfortable at celebrations, parties, and social gatherings	10.8	13.6	8.1
Students who definitely thought other people's tobacco smoking is harmful to them	63.1	59.1	66.9
Students who favored banning smoking inside enclosed public places	93.1	90.6	95.3
Students who favored banning smoking at outdoor public places	90.9	88.8	92.9

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, even one or two puffs. ⁶ Ever smoked cigarettes, even one or two puffs. ⁷ Ever smoked tobacco other than cigarettes, even one or two puffs. ⁸ Used smokeless tobacco anytime during the past 30 days. ⁹ Ever used smokeless tobacco. ¹⁰ Smoked tobacco and/or used smokeless tobacco anytime during the past 30 days. ¹¹ Ever smoked tobacco and/or used smokeless tobacco. ¹² Susceptible to future tobacco use includes those who answered "Definitely yes", "Probably yes", or "Probably not" to using tobacco 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. ¹³ Those who answered "Agree" or "Strongly agree" to the statement: "I think I might enjoy smoking a cigarette". ¹⁴ Current smokers who sometimes or always smoke or feel like smoking tobacco first thing in the morning OR start to feel a strong desire to smoke again within 1 full day after smoking. ¹⁵ How cigarettes were obtained the last time respondents smoked cigarettes in the past 30 days. ¹⁶ Of those who tried to buy cigarettes during the past 30 days. ¹⁷ Based on the last purchase, of those who bought cigarettes during the past 30 days. ¹⁸ Among those who visited a point of sale in the past 30 days. ¹⁹ Among those who watched television, videos, or movies in the past 30 days. ²⁰ Among those who attended sporting or community events in the past 30 days. ²¹ Among those who noticed warning labels on cigarette packages in the past 30 days. [†] During the past 7 days. ^{††} During the past 30 days. All linear changes presented in the graph are from 2000 to 2015 and those that are significant at p<0.05 are denoted by an asterisk (*).

NOTE: Students refer to persons aged 13-15 years who are enrolled in school. Data have been weighted to be nationally representative of all students aged 13-15 years. Percentages reflect the prevalence of each indicator in each group, not the distribution across groups.