

Singapore (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



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

The Singapore GYTS was a school-based survey of students in secondary 1-4 conducted in 2000. A two-stage cluster

sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Singapore. 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 90%, the class response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 93.3%, and the overall response rate was 84%. A total of 9,064 students aged 13-15 participated in the Singapore GYTS.

Prevalence

- 21.5% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 23.9%, Girl = 18.8%)
- 9.1% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 10.5%, Girl = 7.5%)
- 9.1% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 10.5%, Girl = 7.5%)
- 8.9% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

- 11.5% think boys and 7.6% think girls who smoke have more friends
- 7.2% think boys and 4.1% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 11.8% usually smoke at home
- 44.6% buy cigarettes in a store
- 47.7% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

- 35.1% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
- 65.1% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
- 78.1% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 36.4% have one or more parents who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

- 61.9% want to stop smoking
- 78.1% tried to stop smoking during the past year

Media and Advertising

- 92.6% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days

Highlights

- 9.1% of students currently use any tobacco product; 9.1% currently smoke cigarettes;
- SHS exposure is very high – over one-third of the students live in homes where others smoke; Close to two-thirds are exposed to smoke in places outside their home; More than one-third have one or more parents who smoke.
- About 8 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Over 6 in 10 smokers want to stop.
- More than 9 in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days.