

Solomon Islands (Ages 13-15) Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) FACT SHEET



The Solomon Islands 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 Solomon Islands could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Solomon Islands GYTS was a school-based survey of students in standard 6 and forms 1-3 conducted in 2008.

A census was done of all schools containing students in standard 6 and forms 1-3 in the Solomon Islands. All students within all schools were surveyed. The school response rate was 95.0%, the class response rate was 86.8%, the student response rate was 67.2%, and the overall response rate was 55.4%. A total of 601 students aged 13-15 participated in the Solomon Islands GYTS.

Prevalence

- 41.2% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 42.8%, Girl = 39.1%)
- 40.2% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 43.9%, Girl = 37.0%)
- 24.2% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 24.3%, Girl = 23.4%)
- 23.4% currently use other tobacco products (Boy = 27.7%, Girl = 19.9%)
- 25.6% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

- 63.5% think boys and 48.4% think girls who smoke have more friends
- 30.4% think boys and 10.9% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 28.0% usually smoke at home
- 29.4% buy cigarettes in a store
- 43.5% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

- 79.2% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
- 45.6% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 32.0% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 27.6% have one or more parents who smoke
- 13.2% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

- 90.8% want to stop smoking
- 85.4% tried to stop smoking during the past year

Media and Advertising

- 85.0% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
- 70.5% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
- 17.2% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
- 15.7% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

- 49.9% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
- 38.9% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
- 49.6% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- Two in 5 students currently use any form of tobacco; 24.2% currently smoke cigarettes; 23.4% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- SHS exposure is high – eight in 10 are exposed to smoke around others outside of the home; almost 3 in 10 students have at least one parent who smokes.
- Over 3 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Almost half the students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Nine in 10 of the current smokers want to stop smoking.
- 17.2% of students have an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.
- Almost 9 in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; 7 in 10 students saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards.