

Sri Lanka 2011 (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



The Sri Lanka 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 Sri Lanka could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program. The Sri Lanka GYTS was a school-based survey of students in grades 9 through 11 conducted in March 2011.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for Sri Lanka. 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. A total of 4,963 students participated in the Sri Lanka GYTS of which 4,031 were ages 13 to 15 years. The overall response rate of all students surveyed was 84.2%.

Prevalence of Tobacco Use among 13-15 years School Children

- 6.5% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 11.9%, Girls = 1.6%)
- 10.5% currently use any tobacco products (Boys = 15.7%, Girls = 5.4%)
- 1.5% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 2.8%, Girls = 0.3%)
- 10.0% currently use tobacco products other than cigarettes (Boys = 14.6%, Girls = 5.4%)
- 3.9% currently use any smoked tobacco products (Boys = 5.5%, Girls = 2.2%)
- 8.5% currently use any smokeless tobacco products (Boys = 13.0%, Girls = 4.1%)
- 2.0% currently smoke bidis (Boys = 2.7%, Girls = 1.1%)
- 1.6% currently use any smoked tobacco products other than cigarettes or bidis (Boys = 1.6%, Girls = 1.5%)
- 7.1% currently use tobacco with betel (Boys = 11.3%, Girls = 2.9%)
- 2.5% currently use other smokeless tobacco products other than chewing tobacco with betel (Boys = 3.0%, Girls = 1.8%)
- 3.4% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

- 50.5% think boys and 15.5% think girls who smoke have more friends
- 10.1% think boys and 6.3% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 12.8% usually smoke at home
- 20.3% buy cigarettes in a store

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

- 21.2% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
- 42.5% are around others who smoke in enclosed public places
- 52.2% are around others who smoke in outdoor public places
- 88.9% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 87.4% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 28.7% have one or more parents who smoke
- 3.1% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

- 83.8% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

- 82.6% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
- 62.1% saw pro-cigarette ads in international newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
- 4.6% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
- 2.9% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

- 69.6% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
- 41.0% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
- 51.0% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 10.5% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 3.9% currently use any smoked tobacco products; 8.5% currently use any smokeless tobacco products
- SHS exposure – two in 10 students live in homes where others smoke, and over four in 10 students are exposed to smoke in enclosed public places; almost three in 10 students has at least one parent who smokes
- Nearly nine in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them
- Nine in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned
- 4.6% of students have an object with a cigarette brand logo on it
- Over four in five students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; and more than three in five saw pro-cigarette ads in international newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days