

Syria 2010 (Ages 13-15) Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) FACT SHEET



The Syria 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 Syria could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Syria GYTS was a school-based survey of students in grades 7 through 10 conducted in 2010.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for Syria. 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 1,805 students participated in the Syria GYTS of which 1,210 were ages 13 to 15 years. The overall response rate of all students surveyed was 72.9%.

Prevalence

- 20.6% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 29.0%, Girls = 12.1%)
- 24.5% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 31.6%, Girls = 17.4%)
- 6.8% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 10.7%, Girls = 3.1%)
- 23.0% currently use other tobacco products (Boys = 29.4%, Girls = 16.6%)
- 21.6% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

- 13.2% think boys and 12.0% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 33.8% buy cigarettes in a store

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

- 53.2% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
- 53.5% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
- 73.0% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 61.0% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 49.6% have one or more parents who smoke
- 9.2% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

- 74.5% want to stop smoking
- 74.9% tried to stop smoking during the past year
- 88.0% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

- 70.3% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
- 56.9% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
- 15.4% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
- 8.3% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

- 54.1% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
- 42.4% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke

Highlights

- 24.5% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 6.8% currently smoke cigarettes; 23.0% currently use some other form of tobacco
- SHS exposure – 53.2% of students live in homes where others smoke, and 53.5% of students are exposed to smoke around others outside of the home; half the students have at least one parent who smokes
- Six in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them
- Close to three-quarters of students think smoking in public places should be banned
- Three-quarters of the current smokers want to stop smoking
- 15.4% of students have an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.
- Seven in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; 56.9% of students saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days