


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 nationally representative school-based survey of students in grades associated with age 13 to 15 years and is designed to produce cross-sectional estimates for each country. 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 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 classrooms 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 permits adaptation to meet the needs of the country on tobacco use and 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 United Arab Emirates, GYTS was conducted in 2013 by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. The overall response rate was 93.2%. A total of 4,259 eligible students in grades 8-10 completed the survey, of which 3,376 were aged 13-15 years. Data are reported for students aged 13-15.

GYTS Highlights

TOBACCO USE

- 12.2% of students, 16.0% of boys, and 8.2% of girls currently used any tobacco products.
- 10.5% of students, 14.6% of boys, and 6.4% of girls currently smoked tobacco.
- 6.2% of students, 9.7% of boys, and 2.7% of girls currently smoked cigarettes.
- 9.1% of students, 12.4% of boys, and 5.7% of girls currently smoked medwakh.
- 3.4% of students, 4.1% of boys, and 2.6% of girls currently used smokeless tobacco.

CESSATION

- More than 6 in 10 current smokers tried to stop smoking in the past 12 months.
- 5 in 10 current smokers wanted to stop smoking now.

SECONDHAND SMOKE

- 25.2% of students were exposed to tobacco smoke at home.
- 45.7% of students were exposed to tobacco smoke inside enclosed public places.

ACCESS & AVAILABILITY

- 47.4% of current cigarette smokers obtained cigarettes by buying them from a store, shop, gas station, cafeteria, or supermarket.
- Among current cigarette smokers who bought cigarettes, 50.7% were not prevented from buying them because of their age.

MEDIA

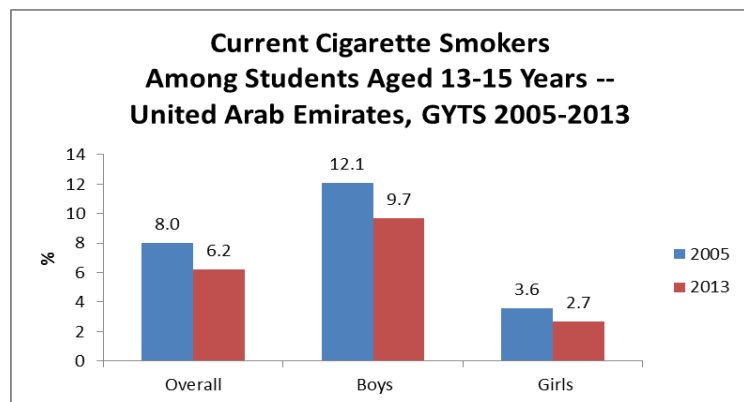
- More than 5 in 10 students noticed anti-tobacco messages in the media.
- More than 3 in 10 students noticed tobacco advertisements or promotions when visiting points of sale.
- 1 in 10 students owned something with a tobacco brand logo on it.

KNOWLEDGE & ATTITUDES

- 57.4% of students definitely thought other people's tobacco smoking is harmful to them.
- 81.3% of students favored banning smoking inside enclosed public places.

TOBACCO USE

SMOKED TOBACCO	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Current tobacco smokers ¹	10.5	14.6	6.4
Current cigarette smokers ²	6.2	9.7	2.7
Frequent cigarette smokers ³	1.2	2.3	0.1
Current smokers of other tobacco ⁴	8.2	10.8	5.6
Current medwakh smokers ⁵	9.1	12.4	5.7
Ever tobacco smokers ⁶	29.7	35.8	23.5
Ever cigarette smokers ⁷	23.5	29.6	17.3
Ever smokers of other tobacco ⁸	19.6	23.7	15.4
SMOKELESS TOBACCO			
Current smokeless tobacco users ⁹	3.4	4.1	2.6
Ever smokeless tobacco users ¹⁰	7.4	9.3	5.5
TOBACCO USE (smoked and/or smokeless)			
Current tobacco users ¹¹	12.2	16.0	8.2
Ever tobacco users ¹²	32.1	37.9	26.3
SUSCEPTIBILITY			
Never tobacco users susceptible to tobacco use in the future ¹³	16.6	18.2	15.2
Never smokers who thought they might enjoy smoking a cigarette ¹⁴	7.4	7.1	7.7



CESSATION

	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Current smokers who tried to stop smoking in the past 12 months	61.5	65.8	47.8
Current smokers who want to stop smoking now	49.0	53.5	36.2
Current smokers who thought they would be able to stop smoking if they wanted to	73.6	71.4	80.3
Current smokers who have ever received help/advice from a program or professional to stop smoking	20.7	24.3	9.5

SECONDHAND SMOKE

	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Exposure to tobacco smoke at home [†]	25.2	25.6	24.6
Exposure to tobacco smoke inside any enclosed public place [†]	45.7	50.6	40.8
Exposure to tobacco smoke at any outdoor public place [†]	48.2	53.5	42.9
Students who saw anyone smoking inside the school building or outside on school property ^{††}	31.2	43.3	19.1

ACCESS & AVAILABILITY

	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Current cigarette smokers who obtained cigarettes by buying them from a store, shop, gas station, cafeteria, or supermarket ¹⁵	47.4	51.6	31.6
Current cigarette smokers who were not prevented from buying cigarettes because of their age ¹⁶	50.7	48.8	--
Current cigarette smokers who bought cigarettes as individual sticks ¹⁷	13.9	12.2	--

MEDIA

TOBACCO ADVERTISING	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Noticing tobacco advertisements or promotions at points of sale ¹⁸	34.7	38.6	30.7
Students who saw anyone using tobacco on television, videos, or movies ¹⁹	70.0	70.4	69.5
Students who were ever offered a free tobacco product from a tobacco company representative	5.9	7.4	4.5
Students who owned something with a tobacco brand logo on it	9.5	10.9	8.1
ANTI-TOBACCO ADVERTISING			
Noticing anti-tobacco messages in the media ^{††}	54.9	55.2	54.6
Noticing anti-tobacco messages at sporting or community events ²⁰	37.4	43.2	30.6
Current smokers who thought about quitting because of a warning label ²¹	29.1	31.4	23.6
Students who were taught in school about the dangers of tobacco use in the past 12 months	34.9	38.3	31.4

KNOWLEDGE & ATTITUDES

	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Students who definitely thought it is difficult to quit once someone starts smoking tobacco	28.7	28.5	28.9
Students who thought smoking tobacco helps people feel more comfortable at celebrations, parties, and social gatherings	26.8	28.0	25.7
Students who definitely thought other people's tobacco smoking is harmful to them	57.4	55.9	59.1
Students who favored banning smoking inside enclosed public places	81.3	78.8	83.9
Students who favored banning smoking at outdoor public places	71.2	68.7	73.7

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 Smoked medwakh anytime during the past 30 days. Current medwakh smoking is assessed with a separate question that is not included in the current smokers of other tobacco question and therefore may produce distinct estimates. ⁶ Ever smoked any tobacco, even one or two puffs. ⁷ Ever smoked cigarettes, even one or two puffs. ⁸ Ever smoked tobacco other than cigarettes, even one or two puffs. ⁹ Used smokeless tobacco anytime during the past 30 days. ¹⁰ Ever used smokeless tobacco. ¹¹ Smoked tobacco and/or used smokeless tobacco anytime during the past 30 days. ¹² Ever smoked tobacco and/or used smokeless tobacco. ¹³ 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 "definitely yes", "probably yes", or "probably not" to using tobacco during the next 12 months. ¹⁴ Those who answered "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" to the statement: "I think I might enjoy smoking a cigarette". 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.

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.

--Estimates based on unweighted cases less than 35 are suppressed.