

Lesotho (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



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

The Lesotho GYTS was a school-based survey of students in Standard 7, Form A, and Form B conducted in 2008.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for Lesotho. 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 88.0%, the class response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 94.6% and the overall response rate was 83.2%. A total of 1,604 students aged 13-15 participated in the Lesotho GYTS.

Prevalence

22.3% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 29.0%, Girls = 16.7%)
24.8% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 26.4%, Girls = 21.7%)
10.1% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 11.8%, Girls = 7.5%)
19.5% currently use other tobacco products (Boys = 20.4%, Girls = 17.9%)
33.7% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

51.3% think boys and 26.2% think girls who smoke have more friends
26.1% think boys and 18.5% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

28.8% usually smoke at home
37.7% buy cigarettes in a store
49.7% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

36.9% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
52.6% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
21.7% think smoking should be banned from public places
37.2% think smoke from others is harmful to them
33.3% have one or more parents who smoke
10.8% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

82.0% want to stop smoking
66.8% tried to stop smoking during the past year
94.0% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

66.8% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
56.9% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
60.2% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
16.3% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
18.0% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

38.1% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
26.7% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
40.2% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- Nearly one-fourth of students currently use any form of tobacco; 1 in 10 students currently smoke cigarettes; 19.5% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- SHS exposure is moderate – over two-thirds of the students live in homes where others smoke, more than half the students are around others who smoke in places outside of their home; one-third of students have one or more parent who smoke.
- Almost 4 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Two in 10 students think smoking should be banned from public places.
- Over 8 in 10 students who are currently smoking indicated that they want to stop smoking now.
- Nearly 1 in 6 students has an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.
- More than 6 in 10 students saw anti-smoking messages; over half saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, and 6 in 10 students saw pro-cigarettes ads in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days.