

GYTS Questions and Answers for School Officials

(To respond to questions from parents)

Q. What is GYTS?

A. The Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) is a nationally representative school-based survey that collects data on students aged 13–15 years using a standardized methodology for constructing the sample frame, selecting schools and classes, and processing data. The GYTS surveillance system is intended to enhance the capacity of countries to design, implement, and evaluate tobacco control and prevention programs

Q. Why is the survey being done?

A. The [name of agency] will use the survey results to help develop a comprehensive tobacco control program and policies. The survey results also will be used to develop school health programs designed to prevent and reduce tobacco use among students.

Q. Will student's names be used or linked to the survey?

A. No. The survey has been designed to protect each student's privacy. Students do not put their name on the questionnaire.

Q. How long does it take to fill out the survey?

A. One class/section period is all that is needed to fill out the written survey.

Q. Does the survey include a physical test?

A. The survey does not include a physical test or exam.

Q. What are the topics of the questions on the survey?

A. All questions on the survey relate to the students' attitudes, behaviors, and knowledge about tobacco use, intent to use, exposure to tobacco use, and exposure to tobacco marketing/advertising.

Q. How were the schools and students selected to be in the survey?

A. Appropriate statistical procedures were used to draw a representative sample of schools. Then classes are randomly selected in each participating school. All students in each selected class are eligible for participation. The survey will be repeated every 4-5 years to see the trends in tobacco use across time. Due to scientific sampling procedures, schools and classes that were selected in a past round may or may not be selected in the next round.

Q. Do students take the survey more than once to see how their behaviors change?

A. No. Students who take part cannot be tracked because their names are not on the survey.

Q. Is student participation anonymous? How is student privacy protected?

A. Survey administration procedures are designed to protect student privacy and allow for anonymous participation. Students submit an optically scannable answer sheet containing no personal identifiers, which are then placed in a large box or large envelope. Published reports do not include names of participating schools or students.

Q. Is this survey voluntary? What if schools or students do not choose to participate?

A. Participation in GYTS is voluntary. However, to develop accurate country estimates of tobacco use and intent to use tobacco among adolescents, participation rates must be high. Selected schools and students cannot be replaced. The goal is to achieve 90 to 95 percent participation by selected schools and students.

Q. Where can additional information be obtained?

A. To obtain additional information about GYTS, contact [name of contact person and telephone number]. Additional information from past rounds and information from all countries worldwide that have participated in GYTS can be found on the Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS) Data website here: <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/GTSSData>.