

Bahamas (Ages 13-15) Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)



FACT SHEET

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

The Bahamas GYTS was a school-based survey of students in grades 8, 9, 10 and 11 conducted in 2009.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for Bahamas. 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 92.0%, the class response rate was 88.7%, the student response rate was 42.8%, and the overall response rate was 34.9%. A total of 1,471 students ages 13-15 participated in the Bahamas GYTS.

Prevalence

- 20.3% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 22.0%, Girl = 18.0%)
- 16.4% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 17.8%, Girl = 15.1%)
- 5.6% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 6.6%, Girl = 4.6%)
- 12.8% currently use other tobacco products (Boy = 13.7%, Girl = 11.8%)
- 17.4% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

- 42.0% think boys and 16.2% think girls who smoke have more friends
- 10.9% think boys and 5.3% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 35.9% usually smoke at home

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

- 25.1% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
- 51.0% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
- 72.6% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 58.8% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 23.2% have one or more parents who smoke
- 6.1% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

- 59.9% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

- 70.3% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
- 38.9% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
- 27.7% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
- 11.9% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
- 7.3% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

- 47.4% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
- 25.7% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
- 42.8% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 16.4% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 5.6% currently smoke cigarettes; 12.8% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- SHS exposure – One-quarter of the students live in homes where others smoke, and half the students are exposed to smoke around others outside of the home; almost one-quarter of the students have at least one parent who smokes.
- Three in five students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Over seven in ten students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- One in eight students has an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.
- Seven in ten students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; two in five students saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards and more than one-quarter saw pro-tobacco ads in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days.