

Greece (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



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

The Greece GYTS was a school-based survey of students in grade 7 through 9 conducted in 2005. A two-stage cluster

sample design was used to produce representative data for each of the four regions in Greece. 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 90%, the class response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 88.7%, and the overall response rate was 79.8%. A total of 5,204 students aged 13-15 participated in the Greece GYTS.

Prevalence

- 32.1% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 34.6%, Girls = 28.9%)
- 16.2% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 17.1%, Girls = 14.4%)
- 10.4% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 11.3%, Girls = 9.0%)
- 3.1% currently daily cigarette smokers (Boys = 3.2%, Girls = 2.6%)
- 4.6% currently smoke cigars (Boys = 6.0%, Girls = 2.4%)
- 23.3% ever smokers initiated smoking before age ten (Boys = 25.5%, Girls = 21.4%)
- 19.5% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year (Boys = 19.4%, Girls = 19.4%)

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 14.3% usually smoke at home
- 49.1% buy cigarettes in a store
- 95.0% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

- 89.8% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
- 94.1% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
- 84.8% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 69.1% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 68.2% have one or more parents who smoke
- 9.2% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

- 37.6% want to stop smoking
- 57.9% tried to stop smoking during the past year
- 70.2% have ever received help to stop smoking
- 10.5% always have or feel like having a cigarette first thing in the morning

Media and Advertising

- 66.2% saw anti-smoking media messages vs. 80% saw pro media messages on TV
- 57.1% saw anti messages vs. 70.3% saw pro messages on billboards
- 57.1% saw anti smoking ads vs. 75.6% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines
- 19.6% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
- 16.7% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative.

School

- 64.7% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
- 43.5% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
- 59.4% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 16.2% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 10.4% of students currently smoke cigarettes; 1 in 5 never smokers are likely to initiate smoking in the next year.
- SHS exposure is extremely high – 1 in 9 students live in homes where others smoke and over 1 in 9 students are exposed to smoke around others outside of the home; more than two-thirds of the students have one or more parents who smoke and 9.2% have friends who smoke.
- Nearly 7 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- More than 4 in 5 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Over one-third of current smokers want to stop smoking.
- Nearly 1 in 6 students were offered a free cigarette by a tobacco company representative.
- Two-thirds of the students saw anti-smoking messages on TV vs. 4 in 5 saw pro messages; More than half saw anti messages on billboards vs. 7 in 10 saw pro messages; Over half saw anti ads in newspapers vs. three-quarters saw pro ads