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 smokelessness) and tracking key tobacco control indicators. GYTS is a cross-sectional, nationally representative school-based survey of students in grades associated with ages 13 to 15 years. 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 technical package of selected demand reduction measures contained in the WHO FCTC.

TYOHO

GYTS Highlights

TOBACCO USE

- 14.9% of students, 17.8% of boys, and 12.1% of girls currently used any tobacco products.
- 13.5% of students, 16.2% of boys, and 10.7% of girls currently smoked tobacco.
- 9.2% of students, 10.8% of boys, and 7.7% of girls currently smoked cigarettes.
- 3.1% of students, 3.1% of boys, and 3.2% of girls currently used smokeless tobacco.

ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

- 18.4% of students, 22.6% of boys, and 14.0% of girls currently used electronic cigarettes.

CESSATION

- More than 6 in 10 (64.0%) current smokers tried to stop smoking in the past 12 months.
- More than 6 in 10 (62.9%) current smokers wanted to stop smoking now.

SECONDHAND SMOKE

- 20.5% of students were exposed to tobacco smoke at home.
- 51.6% of students were exposed to tobacco smoke inside enclosed public places.

ACCESS & AVAILABILITY

- 57.1% of current cigarette smokers bought cigarettes from a store, shop, street vendor, or kiosk.
- Among current cigarette smokers who tried to buy cigarettes, 46.3% were not prevented from buying them because of their age.

MEDIA

- Almost 5 in 10 (49.3%) students noticed anti-tobacco messages in the media.
- More than 6 in 10 (62.5%) students noticed tobacco advertisements or promotions when visiting points of sale.
- Almost 1 in 10 (7.9%) students had something with a tobacco brand logo on it.

KNOWLEDGE & ATTITUDES

- 66.3% of students definitely thought other people's tobacco smoking was harmful to them.
- 70.4% of students favored prohibiting smoking inside enclosed public places.

1Question about electronic cigarettes was included only into GYTS 2017 so there is no data from previous surveys to compare.
2Suicide in 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 if “definitely yes,” “probably yes,” or “probably not” to using tobacco during the past 12 months.
3During the past 7 days.
4Before 2011: Public places.
5Among current cigarette smokers. 2017: among current tobacco smokers.
6Among students who used electronic cigarettes, tobacco, or nicotine in the past 30 days.
7During the past 12 months.
8Stated cigarettes, other types of tobacco, and/or used smokeless tobacco anytime during the past 30 days.
9Includes media messages on internet, main, internet, billboards, posters, newspapers, magazines, or movies.
10Outlet (store, shop, street vendor, or kiosk) from which current cigarette smokers bought cigarettes the last time they smoked cigarettes in the past 30 days.
Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS), a component of the Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS), is a global standard protocol for systematically monitoring of tobacco use (smoking and smokeless) by youth and tracking key tobacco norms indicators. GYTS is a cross-sectional, nationally representative school-based survey of students in grades associated with ages 13 to 15 years in Ukraine. In Ukraine, GYTS was first conducted in 2005 and repeated in 2011 and then in 2017 by O.M. Shevchenko National University of Kyiv Medicine in cooperation with the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and with support of the World Health Organization and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. All surveys used similar multi-stage stratified cluster sample designs to produce nationally representative data. There were 6579 students aged 13-15 participated in GYTS completed in 2005, with an overall response rate of 72.4%, 3,550 students of the same age participated in GYTS in 2011 with an overall response rate of 91.6%, and 3,049 students completed the survey in 2017 with an overall response rate of 81.6%. The temporarily occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, city of Sevastopol, and certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, which are temporarily outside the control of the government of Ukraine, were excluded from GYTS surveys. The 2005 and 2011 results were recalculated for the regions covered by the survey 2017 to be adjusted only for comparison purpose. For additional information, refer to the GYTS 2005, 2011 and 2017 Country FactSheets.

GYTS enhances countries’ capacity to design, implement, and evaluate tobacco control programs, first of all those which are focused on youth. It will also assist countries to fulfill their obligations under the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) to generate comparable data within and across countries.

Within last decade GYTS has made a significant progress in the reduction of smoking prevalence due to implementation of FCTC provisions. Important tobacco control laws and regulations have been adopted and implemented, including the smoke-free law for public places, the ban on advertising, promotion for tobacco products, and the mandate of using graphic health warning labels on cigarette packages as well as multiple tax increases. It has resulted in smoking prevalence decreasing among both general population and youth. The most significant changes between 2005 and 2017 in youth aged 13-15 years old are listed below.

**KEY FINDINGS**

**Prevalence of current tobacco use by students significantly decreased from 26.0% to 14.9% at the same time, overall 18.4% of students currently used electronic cigarettes in 2017.**

**Prevalence of current cigarette smoking use increased from 1.5% to 3.1%.**

**Percentage of never tobacco users susceptible to tobacco use significantly decreased from 61.6% to 18.9%.**

**Percentage of students exposed to secondhand smoke at home and inside any enclosed public places significantly decreased from 70.1% to 20.5% and from 84.4% to 51.6%, respectively.**

**Percentage of current tobacco users who want to quit smoking now, decreased from 74.3% to 62.3%.**

**Percentage of current cigarette smokers who are not prevented from buying cigarettes because of their age, decreased from 64.1% to 46.3%.**

**Percentage of students who noticed anyone using tobacco on television, videos or movies, decreased from 96.8% to 81.2%.**

**Percentage of young people who noticed any anti-tobacco media messages significantly decreased from 97.6% to 49.3%.**

**Percentage of students who decided thought other people’s tobacco smoking is harmful to them significantly increased from 41.5% to 66.3%.**

**Percentage of young people who declared they were taught in school about the dangers of tobacco use significantly decreased from 86.7% to 52.9%.**

**KEY FINDINGS**

Significant percentage of students is current users of electronic cigarettes; percentage of these who use smokeless tobacco has almost doubled within last 12 years. It is necessary to introduce effective regulatory measures to prevent young people from using electronic cigarettes and smokeless tobacco.

Although the level of students’ knowledge on secondhand smoke at home and public places has significantly decreased, over 50% of students are still exposed to secondhand smoking at enclosed public places, which requires strengthening of existing smoke-free legislation and its enforcement.

Although the access to cigarettes for minors has been reduced, over 46.3% of students (current cigarette smokers) aged 13-15 years old are able to purchase cigarettes without being asked about the age. It means that existing legislation must be enforced in order to curb this.

Percentage of students who noticed anyone using tobacco on television, videos or movies decreased dramatically and over 80% of students continue observing tobacco use on TV. It requires as closing the loopholes by amending the incumbent legislation to the current laws, which ban tobacco products advertising, so as to introduce strict rules for television programs, which prohibit to demonstrate smoking and all related attributes.

There is a lack of anti-tobacco messages in mass media and lack of educational programs in schools aimed to tobacco prevention among young people, although overall awareness of dangers of tobacco use has increased since 2005. However, only 66.3% of students know that other people’s tobacco smoking is harmful to them. More information and educational programs with focus on youth are required.

Decrease in share of students who would like to quit smoking could mean that proper education of students is highly required as well as availability and accessibility of professional smoking cessation services.