

Serbia (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



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

The Serbia GYTS was a school-based survey of students in grade 7 and 8, and 1st year high school conducted in 2003.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Serbia. 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 100%, the class response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 89.8%, and the overall response rate was 89.8%. A total of 3,506 students aged 13-15 participated in the Serbia GYTS.

Prevalence

- 51.8% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 53.2%, Girl = 50.3%)
- 13.5% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 12.8%, Girl = 13.7%)
- 12.8% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 12.2%, Girl = 13.1%)
- 4.6% currently daily cigarette smokers (Boy = 4.4%, Girl = 4.6%)
- 5.7% currently smoke cigars (Boy = 4.7%, Girl = 6.6%)
- 33.5% ever smokers initiated smoking before age ten (Boy = 36.8%, Girl = 30.2%)
- 19.2% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year (Boy = 16.5%, Girl = 21.8%)

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 16.9% usually smoke at home
- 69.4% buy cigarettes in a store
- 94.4% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

- 97.7% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
- 90.6% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
- 79.0% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 51.2% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 70.8% have one or more parents who smoke
- 16.9% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

- 54.2% want to stop smoking
- 80.5% tried to stop smoking during the past year
- 70.3% have ever received help to stop smoking
- 14.3% always have or feel like having a cigarette first thing in the morning

Media and Advertising

- 68.8% saw pro messages on billboards
- 80.0% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines
- 29.1% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
- 22.2% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

- 64.1% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
- 40.5% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
- 56.8% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 13.5% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 12.8% currently smoke cigarettes; 4.6% currently daily cigarette smokers; 5.7% currently smoke cigars; 19.2% never smokers likely to initiate smoking next year.
- SHS exposure is high – Almost all students live in homes where others smoke in their presence; Nine in 10 are exposed to smoke in public places; over 7 in 10 have one or more parents who smoke.
- More than half the students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Nearly 8 in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Over half the smokers want to quit; almost 1 in 7 feel like having a cigarette first thing in the morning.
- Nearly 3 in 10 students have an object with a cigarette brand logo.
- Three-quarters of the students saw pro-cigarette ads in the past 30 days.
- Close to two-thirds had been taught in school about the dangers of smoking.