

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



FACT SHEET

The Bulgaria 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, secondhand smoke exposure (SHS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Bulgaria could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program. The Bulgaria GYTS was a school-based survey of students in 7, 8 and 9 grades conducted in 2008. A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for Bulgaria.

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 100.0%, the class response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 87.3%, and the overall response rate was 87.3%. A total of 3,587 students participated in the Bulgaria GYTS of which 3,241 were aged 13 to 15 years

Prevalence

58.8% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 56.1%, Girls = 61.3%)
29.3% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 26.4%, Girls = 31.8%)
28.2% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 24.4%, Girls = 31.6%)
8.8% currently use other tobacco products (Boys = 10.5%, Girls = 6.8%)
21.2% ever smokers initiated smoking before age ten (Boys = 26.6%, Girls = 16.3%)
31.2% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year (Boys = 27.0%, Girls = 36.4%)

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

41.9% usually smoke in public places
68.6 buy cigarettes in a store
67.9 who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

71.9 live in homes where others smoke in their presence
70.1 are around others who smoke in places outside their home
62.5 think smoking should be totally banned from public places
68.1 think smoke from others is harmful to them
71.9 have one or more parents who smoke
29.6 have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

49.1 want to stop smoking
57.8 tried to stop smoking during the past year
59.9 have ever received help to stop smoking
15.6% of current smokers who always have or feel like having a cigarette first thing in the morning

Media and Advertising

69.8 saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
40.9% saw anti smoking media messages in newspapers or magazines
45.5 saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
16.4 have an object with a cigarette brand logo
10.2 were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

68.7 had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
68.7 had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
55.2 had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- Approximately 3 in 10 students currently use any form of tobacco; 29.3% currently smoke cigarettes; less than 1 in 10 currently use some other form of tobacco.
- SHS exposure is very high live - 71.9% of the students live in homes where others smoke in their presence, over - 7 in 10 students are around others who smoke in places outside of their home; almost 7 in 10 students have one or more parent who smoke and 1/3 most or all friends smokers.
- More than 2/3 of the students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- About 6 in 10 students think smoking should be totally banned from public places.
- Nearly 1/2 of students who are currently smoking indicated that they want to stop smoking now; 6 in 10 students currently smoking tried to stop during the past year.
- About 7 in 10 students saw anti-smoking messages while over 45.5% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, and approximately 40.9% of the students saw anti smoking media messages in newspapers or magazines.