

South Africa Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) FACT SHEET



The South Africa 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, environmental tobacco smoke exposure (ETS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components South Africa could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The South Africa GYTS was a school-based survey of students in grades 8-10, conducted in 1999. A two-stage

cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of South Africa. 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 76.9%, the student response rate was 85.5%, and the overall response rate was 65.7%. A total of 6,045 students participated in the South Africa GYTS.

Prevalence

- 46.7% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 55.4%, Girls = 38.8%)
- 32.5% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 38.0%, Girls = 26.5%)
- 23.0% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 28.8%, Girls = 17.5%)
- 18.2% currently use other tobacco products (Boys = 20.7%, Girls = 15.1%)
- 16.4% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

- 54.1% think boys and 31.4% think girls who smoke have more friends
- 24.8% think boys and 15.0% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 21.8% usually smoke at home
- 50.7% buy cigarettes in a store
- 73.9% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age*

Environmental Tobacco Smoke

- 47.8% live in homes where others smoke
- 56.5% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
- 51.1% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 48.8% definitely think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 46.3% have one or more parents who smoke
- 18.5% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

- 73.9% want to stop smoking
- 76.6% tried to stop smoking during the past year
- 67.1% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

- 79.7% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
- 77.6% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
- 77.9% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
- 18.9% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
- 19.4% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

- 40.8% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
- 31.4% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
- 44.5% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

*the purchase of tobacco products is prohibited to those under 16; only students under 16 included in analysis

Highlights

- 33% of students currently use some form of tobacco; 23% currently smoke cigarettes; 18% currently use other forms of tobacco.
- ETS exposure is very high — almost half of students live in homes where others smoke; almost 6 in 10 are exposed to smoke in public places; almost half have parents who smoke.
- Half of students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Half of students think smoking should be banned from public places.
- Over 7 in 10 smokers want to stop.
- 8 in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; 8 in 10 students saw pro-cigarette ads in the past 30 days.