

Belize (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



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

The Belize GYTS was a school-based survey of students in Std 6, and Forms 1, 2, and 3 conducted in 2008.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for Belize. 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 94.4%, the class response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 99.4%, and the overall response rate was 93.9%. A total of 1,751 students aged 13-15 participated in the Belize GYTS.

Prevalence

26.6% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 36.2%, Girl = 18.6%)
 18.3% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 21.8%, Girl = 15.3%)
 7.7% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 11.7%, Girl = 4.4%)
 13.3% currently use other tobacco products (Boy = 14.6%, Girl = 12.2%)
 21.3% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

30.8% think boys and 14.8% think girls who smoke have more friends
 5.0% think boys and 4.6% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

19.2% usually smoke at home
 34.4% buy cigarettes in a store

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

25.7% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 50.4% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 61.4% think smoking should be banned from public places
 69.8% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 26.9% have one or more parents who smoke
 6.1% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

74.7% want to stop smoking
 65.0% tried to stop smoking during the past year
 67.6% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

65.2% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
 62.1% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
 58.3% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
 9.6% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
 12.4% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

67.0% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
 49.3% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
 65.4% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- Almost 1 in 5 students currently use any form of tobacco; 7.7% of students currently smoke cigarettes; 13.3% of students currently use some other form of tobacco.
- SHS exposure is high – one-quarter of the students live in homes where others smoke, and half the students are exposed to smoke around others outside of the home; one-third of the students have at least one parent who smokes.
- Seven in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Six in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Three-quarters of the current smokers want to stop smoking.
- One in 10 students has an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.
- Two-thirds of the students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; 6 in 10 students saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards and over half saw pro-tobacco ads in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days.