

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, exposure to secondhand smoke (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 7th and 8th class, 8th preparatory class and 9th class conducted in

2002. A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of 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%, the class response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 91.1%, and the overall response rate was 91.1%. A total of 1,763 students aged 13-15 participated in the Bulgaria GYTS.

Prevalence

65.7% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 59.5%, Girl = 71.3%)
 34.3% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 28.6%, Girl = 39.2%)
 33.1% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 26.0%, Girl = 39.4%)
 4.3% currently use other tobacco products (Boy = 5.3%, Girl = 3.3%)
 29.2% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

20.3% think boys and 19.1% think girls who smoke have more friends
 12.4% think boys and 11.2% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

12.6% usually smoke at home
 61.9% buy cigarettes in a store
 74.5% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

67.7% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 75.7% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 62.5% think smoking should be banned from public places
 62.0% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 75.5% have one or more parents who smoke
 41.6% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

60.5% want to stop smoking
 68.4% tried to stop smoking during the past year
 96.8% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

65.0% saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days
 76.8% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards in the past 30 days
 74.5% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days
 21.0% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
 7.2% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

62.2% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
 39.1% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
 50.2% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- More than one-third of the students currently use any form of tobacco; Over 3 in 10 currently smoke cigarettes; 29.2% of never smokers likely to initiate smoking next year.
- SHS exposure is high – Over two-thirds of the students live in homes where others smoke in their presence; Three-quarters are exposed to smoke in public places; More than 7 in 10 have one or more parents who smoke.
- More than 6 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Over 3 in 5 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Six in 10 smokers want to quit.
- Over 1 in 5 students has an object with a cigarette brand logo.
- Almost two-thirds of the students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; Over three-quarters of the students saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards in the past 30 days; More than 7 in 10 students saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days.

For additional information, please contact:

Antoaneta Manolova

e-mail: A.Manolova@NCH.Aster.Net