

Greece (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



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

The Greece GYTS was a school-based survey of students in grade 7 through 9 conducted in 2005. A two-stage cluster

sample design was used to produce representative data for each of the four regions in Greece. 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 90%, the class response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 88.7%, and the overall response rate was 79.8%. A total of 5,204 students aged 13-15 participated in the Greece GYTS.

Prevalence

32.1% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 34.6%, Girls = 28.9%)
 16.2% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 17.1%, Girls = 14.4%)
 10.4% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 11.3%, Girls = 9.0%)
 3.1% currently daily cigarette smokers (Boys = 3.2%, Girls = 2.6%)
 4.6% currently smoke cigars (Boys = 6.0%, Girls = 2.4%)
 23.3% ever smokers initiated smoking before age ten (Boys = 25.5%, Girls = 21.4%)
 19.5% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year (Boys = 19.4%, Girls = 19.4%)

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

14.3% usually smoke at home
 49.1% buy cigarettes in a store
 95.0% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

89.8% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 94.1% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 84.8% think smoking should be banned from public places
 69.1% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 68.2% have one or more parents who smoke
 9.2% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

37.6% want to stop smoking
 57.9% tried to stop smoking during the past year
 70.2% have ever received help to stop smoking
 10.5% always have or feel like having a cigarette first thing in the morning

Media and Advertising

66.2% saw anti-smoking media messages vs. 80% saw pro media messages on TV
 57.1% saw anti messages vs. 70.3% saw pro messages on billboards
 57.1% saw anti smoking ads vs. 75.6% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines
 19.6% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
 16.7% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative.

School

64.7% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
 43.5% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
 59.4% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 16.2% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 10.4% of students currently smoke cigarettes; 1 in 5 never smokers are likely to initiate smoking in the next year.
- SHS exposure is extremely high – 1 in 9 students live in homes where others smoke and over 1 in 9 students are exposed to smoke around others outside of the home; more than two-thirds of the students have one or more parents who smoke and 9.2% have friends who smoke.
- Nearly 7 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- More than 4 in 5 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Over one-third of current smokers want to stop smoking.
- Nearly 1 in 6 students were offered a free cigarette by a tobacco company representative.
- Two-thirds of the students saw anti-smoking messages on TV vs. 4 in 5 saw pro messages; More than half saw anti messages on billboards vs. 7 in 10 saw pro messages; Over half saw anti ads in newspapers vs. three-quarters saw pro ads