

Jamaica (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



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

The Jamaica GYTS was a school-based survey of students in Forms 1, 2, 3 and 4 conducted in 2006. A two-stage cluster

sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Jamaica. 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 79.9%, and the overall response rate was 79.9%. A total of 1,398 students ages 13-15 participated in the Jamaica GYTS.

Prevalence

35.1% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 40.8%, Girl = 29.7%)
 19.5% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 24.0%, Girl = 15.3%)
 15.4% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 20.6%, Girl = 10.9%)
 8.9% currently use other tobacco products (Boy = 10.2%, Girl = 7.2%)
 18.7% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

42.3% think boys and 24.0% think girls who smoke have more friends
 10.8% think boys and 8.5% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

44.7% usually smoke at home
 30.9% buy cigarettes in a store
 69.2% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

32.5% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 60.5% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 70.5% think smoking should be banned from public places
 69.2% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 32.5% have one or more parents who smoke
 8.1% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

73.3% want to stop smoking
 60.5% tried to stop smoking during the past year
 67.6% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

71.0% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
 62.4% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
 55.2% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
 14.0% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
 10.6% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

39.1% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
 25.6% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
 34.3% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 19.5% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 15.4% currently smoke cigarettes; 8.9% currently use other tobacco products.
- SHS exposure is high – 3 in 10 students live in homes where others smoke; 6 in 10 are exposed to smoke in public places; close to one-third have one or more parents who smoke.
- Seven in 10 students think that smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Seven in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Nearly three-quarters of the smokers want to stop.
- More than 1 in 7 students has an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.
- Seven in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; nearly 6 in 10 students saw pro-smoking media messages in the past 30 days.