

GYTS Objectives

The Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS), a component of the Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS), is a global standard for systematically monitoring youth tobacco use and tracking key tobacco control indicators.

GYTS is a cross-sectional, nationally representative school-based survey of students in grades associated with ages 13 to 15 years. GYTS uses a standard core questionnaire, sample design, and data collection protocol.



- Monitor tobacco use & prevention policies
- Protect people from tobacco smoke
- Offer help to quit tobacco use
- Warn about the dangers of tobacco
- Enforce bans on tobacco advertising, promotion, & sponsorship
- Raise taxes on tobacco

GYTS Methodology

GYTS uses a global standardized methodology that includes a two-stage sample design with schools selected with a probability proportional to enrollment size. The classes within selected schools are chosen randomly and all students in selected classes are eligible to participate in the survey. The survey uses a standard core questionnaire with a set of optional questions that countries can adapt to measure and track key tobacco control indicators. The questionnaire covers the following topics: tobacco use (smoking and smokeless), cessation, secondhand smoke (SHS), pro- and anti-tobacco advertising and promotion, access to and availability of tobacco products, and knowledge and attitudes regarding tobacco use. The questionnaire is self-administered; using scannable paper-based bubble sheets, it is anonymous to ensure confidentiality.

In Latvia, GYTS was conducted in 2024 by The Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (CDPC) for Latvia, under the coordination of Ministry of Health. The overall response rate was 61.0%. A total of 3,590 eligible students in grades 7-9 completed the survey, of which 3,274 were aged 13-15 years. Data are reported for students aged 13-15 years.

GYTS Highlights

TOBACCO USE

- 17.3% of students, 15.4% of boys, and 18.8% of girls currently used any tobacco products (includes heated tobacco products).
- 14.5% of students, 12.6% of boys, and 16.0% of girls currently smoked tobacco.
- 10.5% of students, 9.2% of boys, and 11.5% of girls currently smoked cigarettes.
- 5.1% of students, 4.4% of boys, and 5.6% of girls currently used heated tobacco products.
- 5.1% of students, 5.9% of boys, and 4.2% of girls currently used smokeless tobacco.

ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

- 21.9% of students, 17.0% of boys, and 26.7% of girls currently used electronic cigarettes.

CESSATION

- Almost 7 in 10 (67.5%) students who currently smoked tobacco tried to stop smoking in the past 12 months.
- Almost 5 in 10 (45.5%) students who currently smoked tobacco wanted to stop smoking now.

SECONDHAND SMOKE

- 38.1% of students were exposed to tobacco smoke at home.
- 45.7% of students were exposed to tobacco smoke inside enclosed public places.

ACCESS & AVAILABILITY

- 19.2% of students who currently smoked cigarettes bought cigarettes from a shop, supermarket, kiosk, or gas station.
- Among students who currently smoked cigarettes who tried to buy cigarettes, 70.1% were not prevented from buying them because of their age.

ADVERTISING & PROMOTION

- Almost 7 in 10 (67.0%) students noticed anti-tobacco messages in the media.
- Almost 5 in 10 (49.7%) students noticed tobacco advertisements or promotions when visiting points of sale.
- Almost 1 in 10 (9.0%) students had something with a tobacco brand logo on it.

KNOWLEDGE & ATTITUDES

- 30.8% of students definitely thought other people's tobacco smoking is harmful to them.
- 80.6% of students favored prohibiting smoking inside enclosed public places.

TOBACCO USE

ANY TOBACCO USE (smoked, heated, and/or smokeless)	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Current tobacco users ¹	17.3	15.4	18.8
Ever tobacco users ²	45.0	41.9	48.0*

SMOKED TOBACCO

Current tobacco smokers ³	14.5	12.6	16.0
Current cigarette smokers ⁴	10.5	9.2	11.5
Frequent cigarette smokers ⁵	3.2	3.1	3.3
Current smokers of other tobacco ⁶	8.8	8.0	9.4
Ever tobacco smokers ⁷	42.1	38.9	45.1
Ever cigarette smokers ⁸	36.7	33.8	39.5*
Ever smokers of other tobacco ⁹	25.6	23.7	27.3

HEATED TOBACCO

Current users of heated tobacco products ¹⁰	5.1	4.4	5.6
Ever users of heated tobacco products ¹¹	13.8	12.5	14.9

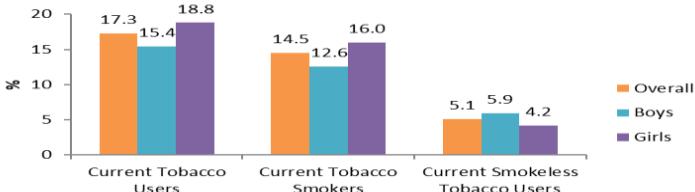
SMOKELESS TOBACCO

Current smokeless tobacco users ¹²	5.1	5.9	4.2
Ever smokeless tobacco users ¹³	12.0	12.4	11.3

SUSCEPTIBILITY

Never tobacco users susceptible to tobacco use in the future ¹⁴	27.0	24.9	29.5
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Current Tobacco Use Among Students Aged 13-15 Years — Latvia, GYTS 2024



ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Current electronic cigarette users ¹⁵	21.9	17.0	26.7
Ever electronic cigarette users ¹⁶	52.7	47.8	57.3

CESSATION

	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Current tobacco smokers who tried to stop smoking in the past 12 months	67.5	61.0	70.9
Current tobacco smokers who wanted to stop smoking now	45.5	39.4	48.4
Current tobacco smokers who thought they would be able to stop smoking if they wanted to	80.1	80.5	80.1
Current tobacco smokers who have ever received help/advice from a program or professional to stop smoking	14.2	11.9	15.8

SECONDHAND SMOKE

	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Exposure to tobacco smoke at home ¹⁷	38.1	35.9	40.0*
Exposure to tobacco smoke inside any enclosed public place ¹⁷	45.7	43.1	48.1*
Exposure to tobacco smoke at any outdoor public place ¹⁷	72.3	67.6	77.1*
Students who saw anyone smoking inside the school building or outside on school property ¹⁸	38.9	37.2	40.5

ACCESS & AVAILABILITY

	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Current cigarette smokers who bought cigarettes from a shop, supermarket, kiosk, or gas station ¹⁹	19.2	24.6	14.5

Current cigarette smokers who were not prevented from buying cigarettes because of their age ²⁰	70.1	60.3	78.1*
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Current cigarette smokers who bought cigarettes as individual sticks ²¹	30.8	32.1	27.5
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ADVERTISING & PROMOTION

TOBACCO ADVERTISING & PROMOTION	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Students who noticed tobacco advertisements or promotions at points of sale ²²	49.7	47.0	52.1*

Students who saw anyone using tobacco on television, videos, or movies ²³	27.7	23.0	31.6*
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Students who were ever offered a free tobacco product from a tobacco company representative	21.9	18.9	24.8*
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Students who had something with a tobacco brand logo on it	9.0	9.5	8.4
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ANTI-TOBACCO ADVERTISING & PROMOTION

Students who noticed anti-tobacco messages in the media ¹⁸	67.0	63.6	70.4*
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Students who noticed anti-tobacco messages at sporting or community events ²⁴	43.6	47.2	39.7*
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Current tobacco smokers who thought about quitting because of a warning label ²⁵	13.7	12.1	14.4
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Students who were taught in school about the dangers of tobacco use in the past 12 months	47.6	45.9	49.5
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KNOWLEDGE & ATTITUDES

	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Students who definitely thought it is difficult to quit once someone starts smoking tobacco	41.4	35.9	46.9*

Students who thought smoking tobacco helps people feel more comfortable at celebrations, parties, and social gatherings	37.9	32.7	42.9*
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Students who definitely thought other people's tobacco smoking is harmful to them	30.8	34.4	27.2
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Students who favored prohibiting smoking inside enclosed public places	80.6	79.7	81.7
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Students who favored prohibiting smoking at outdoor public places	60.2	64.5	56.1
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¹ Smoked cigarettes, smoked other type of tobacco, and/or used smokeless tobacco anytime during the past 30 days. ² Ever smoked tobacco and/or used smokeless tobacco. ³ Smoked cigarettes or other type of tobacco anytime during the past 30 or more days of the past 30 days. ⁴ Smoked cigarettes anytime during the past 30 days. ⁵ Smoked cigarettes on 20 or more days of the past 30 days. ⁶ Smoked tobacco other than cigarettes anytime during the past 30 days. ⁷ Ever smoked cigarettes or other type of tobacco, even one or two puffs. ⁸ Ever smoked cigarettes, even one or two puffs. ⁹ Ever smoked tobacco other than cigarettes, even one or two puffs. ¹⁰ Used heated tobacco products anytime during the past 30 days. ¹¹ Ever used heated tobacco products. ¹² Used smokeless tobacco anytime during the past 30 days. ¹³ Ever used smokeless tobacco. ¹⁴ Susceptible to future tobacco use includes those who answered "definitely yes", "probably yes", or "probably not" to using tobacco if one of their best friends offered it to them, or "definitely yes", "probably yes", or "probably not" to using tobacco during the next 12 months. ¹⁵ Used electronic cigarettes anytime during the past 30 days. Current use of electronic cigarettes is assessed separately from cigarettes, other smoked tobacco products, smokeless tobacco products, and heated tobacco products and is not included in the current definition of current any tobacco use. ¹⁶ Ever used electronic cigarettes in their entire life. ¹⁷ During the past 7 days. ¹⁸ During the past 30 days. ¹⁹ Outlet from which current cigarette smokers bought cigarettes the last time they smoked cigarettes in the past 30 days. ²⁰ Among those who tried to buy cigarettes during the past 30 days. ²¹ Based on the last purchase, among those who bought cigarettes during the past 30 days. ²² Among those who visited a point of sale in the past 30 days. ²³ Among those who watched television, videos, or movies in the past 30 days. ²⁴ Among those who attended sporting or community events in the past 30 days. ²⁵ Among those who noticed warning labels on cigarette packages in the past 30 days.

NOTE: Data are weighted to be nationally representative of all students aged 13-15 years who are enrolled in school. Percentages reflect the prevalence of each indicator in each group, not the distribution across groups.

*Sex comparisons are statistically significant at $p < 0.05$.