

Lesotho (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



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

The Lesotho GYTS was a school-based survey of students in Form A, B and C, conducted in 2002. A two-stage cluster

sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Lesotho. 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 96.4%, the student response rate was 88.5%, and the overall response rate was 85.3%. A total of 1,989 students aged 13-15 participated in the Lesotho GYTS.

Prevalence

21.9% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 34.0%, Girl = 15.3%)
 20.3% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 22.4%, Girl = 17.7%)
 9.2% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 16.6%, Girl = 4.8%)
 14.8% currently use other tobacco products (Boy = 12.3%, Girl = 14.8%)
 33.2% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

52.7% think boys and 19.5% think girls who smoke have more friends
 21.0% think boys and 13.2% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

20.2% usually smoke at home
 30.4% buy cigarettes in a store
 62.3% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

39.5% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 60.4% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 32.9% think smoking should be banned from public places
 47.6% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 31.7% have one or more parents who smoke
 10.6% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

80.4% want to stop smoking
 68.6% tried to stop smoking during the past year
 78.2% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

72.9% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
 64.7% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
 64.6% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
 14.2% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
 13.7% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

39.0% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
 28.2% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
 38.8% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- More than 2 in 10 students currently use any form of tobacco; 9.2% currently smoke cigarettes; 14.8% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- SHS exposure is high – 4 in 10 students live in homes where others smoke in their presence; 3 in 5 are exposed to smoke in public places; more than 3 in 10 have one or more parents who smoke.
- Close to half the students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Nearly one-third of the students think smoking should be banned from public places.
- Over 8 in 10 smokers want to quit.
- One in 7 students has an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.
- More than 7 in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; close to two-thirds of the students saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards and in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days.