

Malaysia (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



The Malaysia 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 the Malaysia could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Malaysia GYTS was a school-based survey of students in Peralihan and Tingkatan satu, dua, and tiga conducted in 2003.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for the Malaysia. 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 87.9%, and the overall response rate was 87.9%. A total of 3,302 students aged 13-15 participated in the Malaysia GYTS.

Prevalence

33.1% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 54.6%, Girl = 11.5%)
 25.8% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 40.0%, Girl = 11.5%)
 20.2% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 36.3%, Girl = 4.2%)
 8.1% currently use other tobacco products (Boy = 8.8%, Girl = 7.5%)
 15.5% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

9.8% think boys and 3.6% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

14.5% usually smoke at home
 58.6% buy cigarettes in a store
 39.1% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

11.5% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 16.7% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 81.2% think smoking should be banned from public places
 68.1% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 52.0% have one or more parents who smoke
 10.2% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

80.2% want to stop smoking
 88.3% tried to stop smoking during the past year
 91.2% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

91.0% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
 84.9% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
 72.5% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
 14.7% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
 4.7% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

71.5% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
 41.8% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
 59.2% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- One-quarter of the students currently use any form of tobacco; 2 in 10 currently smoke cigarettes; 8.1% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- SHS exposure is high – more than 1 in 10 students live in homes where others smoke in their presence and 16.7% of students are exposed to smoke around others outside of the home; More than half the students have one or more parents who smoke.
- Over two-thirds of the students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- More than 8 in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Eight in 10 smokers want to stop.
- Nearly 1 in 7 students has an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.
- Nine in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; More than three-quarters of the students saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards and in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days on billboards.