

Tunisia (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



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

The Tunisia GYTS was a school-based survey of students in 7th and 8th grade elementary and 9th grade basic conducted

in 2007. A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Tunisia. 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 92.4%, and the overall response rate was 92.4%. A total of 1,499 students aged 13-15 participated in the Tunisia GYTS.

Prevalence

24.6% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 39.8%, Girl = 9.5%)
 18.3% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 27.8%, Girl = 8.8%)
 8.3% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 15.1%, Girl = 1.6%)
 13.9% currently use other tobacco products (Boy = 19.9%, Girl = 7.8%)
 19.9% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

36.5% think boys and 21.2% think girls who smoke have more friends
 23.5% think boys and 17.6% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

5.2% usually smoke at home
 43.9% buy cigarettes in a store
 70.2% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

51.9% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 65.2% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 85.3% think smoking should be banned from public places
 73.1% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 47.6% have one or more parents who smoke
 8.3% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

84.0% want to stop smoking
 71.4% tried to stop smoking during the past year
 89.6% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

71.8% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
 64.5% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
 58.7% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
 10.1% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
 4.8% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

43.2% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
 37.5% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
 37.4% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 18.3% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 8.3% currently smoke cigarettes; 13.9% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- SHS exposure is high – More than half of the students live in homes where others smoke in their presence; Two-thirds are exposed to smoke in public places; Over 4 in 10 have one or more parents who smoke.
- Almost three-quarters of students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- More than 8 in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Over 4 in 5 smokers want to quit.
- One in 10 students has an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.
- Almost three-quarters of the students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; Over 3 in 5 students saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards and in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days.