

Vanuatu (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



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

The Vanuatu GYTS was a school-based survey of

students in grade/form 7-9 conducted in 2007. A census was done of all schools in Vanuatu containing students in grade/form 7-9. All students within each selected school were surveyed. The school response rate was 95.8%, the class response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 74.8%, and the overall response rate was 71.7%. A total of 1,900 students aged 13-15 participated in the Vanuatu GYTS.

Prevalence

27.1% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 39.3%, Girl = 18.6%)
 25.6% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 34.1%, Girl = 19.6%)
 18.2% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 28.2%, Girl = 11.4%)
 13.8% currently use other tobacco products (Boy = 17.5%, Girl = 11.3%)
 38.7% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

73.2% think boys and 49.6% think girls who smoke have more friends
 29.5% think boys and 20.3% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

22.5% usually smoke at home
 30.7% buy cigarettes in a store
 59.8% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

59.3% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 75.9% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 36.3% think smoking should be banned from public places
 30.0% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 38.2% have one or more parents who smoke
 19.9% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

84.5% want to stop smoking
 72.1% tried to stop smoking during the past year
 92.7% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

82.1% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
 71.3% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
 72.4% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
 17.8% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
 13.5% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

53.9% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
 41.0% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
 47.3% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- More than 1 in 4 students currently use any form of tobacco; 18.2% of the students currently smoke cigarettes, 13.8% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- SHS exposure is very high – nearly 3 in 5 students live in homes where others smoke, and three-quarters of students are exposed to smoke around others outside of the home; almost 4 in 10 students have one or more parents who smoke and 19.9% of students have friends who smoke.
- Three in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Over two-thirds of the students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- More than 8 in 10 current smokers want to stop smoking.
- 13.5% of students were offered a free cigarette by a tobacco company representative.
- Over 8 in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; more than 7 in 10 students saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards and in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days.