

Lebanon UNRWA (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



The Lebanon UNRWA 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 Lebanon UNRWA could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Lebanon UNRWA GYTS was a school-based survey of students in grades 7, 8, and 9 conducted in 2008. A two-stage

cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Lebanon UNRWA. 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 94.6%, and the overall response rate was 94.6%. A total of 1,685 students aged 13-15 participated in the Lebanon UNRWA GYTS.

Prevalence

22.1% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 33.0%, Girl = 12.9%)
 41.4% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 48.2%, Girl = 35.8%)
 10.6% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 16.6%, Girl = 5.5%)
 33.7% currently smoke shisha (Boy = 39.0%, Girl = 29.0%)
 38.9% currently use other tobacco products (Boy = 44.1%, Girl = 34.6%)
 15.6% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

31.9% think boys and 19.8% think girls who smoke have more friends
 23.2% think boys and 16.6% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

20.3% usually smoke at home
 27.8% buy cigarettes in a store
 87.2% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

68.1% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 65.0% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 80.4% think smoking should be banned from public places
 67.9% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 65.6% have one or more parents who smoke
 13.3% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

60.4% want to stop smoking
 64.9% tried to stop smoking during the past year
 75.3% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

62.2% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
 76.4% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
 64.2% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
 13.7% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
 11.0% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

55.4% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
 38.0% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
 42.1% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- More than 2 in 5 students currently use any form of tobacco; 10.6% currently smoke cigarettes; 38.9% currently use other tobacco products.
- One-third of the students currently smoke shisha
- SHS exposure is very high – almost 7 in 10 students live in homes where others smoke; almost two-thirds of the students are exposed to smoke in public places; more than 3 in 5 students have one or more parents who smoke.
- Over two-thirds of the students think that smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Eight in 10 students think smoking should be banned in public places.
- Three in 5 current smokers want to stop.
- Close to 1 in 7 students has an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.
- More than 6 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 in the past 30 days and about two-thirds of students saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines.

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