

West Bank (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



The West Bank 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 some of the components the West Bank could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The West Bank GYTS was a school-based survey of students in grades 8-12, conducted in 2000. A two-stage

cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of the West Bank. 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 98.7%, the class response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 94.8%, and the overall response rate was 93.5%. A total of 4,387 students aged 13-15 participated in the West Bank GYTS.

Prevalence

49.5% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 65.7%, Girl = 34.5%)
 22.4% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 33.8%, Girl = 11.8%)
 14.2% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 24.7%, Girl = 4.7%)
 16.6% currently use other tobacco products (Boy = 23.7%, Girl = 10.0%)
 10.0% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

30.2% think boys and 16.9% think girls who smoke have more friends
 30.2% think boys and 29.7% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

20.0% usually smoke at home
 38.2% buy cigarettes in a store
 77.5% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

66.8% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 59.9% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 82.5% think smoking should be banned from public places
 83.5% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 57.2% have one or more parents who smoke
 17.0% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

61.3% want to stop smoking
 66.7% tried to stop smoking during the past year
 78.0% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

72.0% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
 68.9% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
 63.9% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
 33.1% have an object with a cigarette brand logo

School

53.2% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
 37.9% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
 43.5% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 22.4% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 14.2% currently smoke cigarettes; 16.6% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- SHS exposure is very high – two-thirds of the students live in homes where others smoke; 6 in 10 are exposed to smoke in public places; Over half have one or more parents who smoke.
- More than 8 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Over 8 in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- More than 6 in 10 smokers want to stop.
- One-third of the students have 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; Nearly 7 in 10 the students saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards and close to two-thirds saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days.