

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

The West Bank GYTS was a school-based survey of students in seventh through tenth grade conducted in 2005.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for 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 100%, the class response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 95.6%, and the overall response rate was 95.6%. A total of 2,182 students participated in the West Bank GYTS.

Prevalence

35.4% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 50.2%, Girls = 20.8%)
 27.5% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 37.8%, Girls = 17.4%)
 18.0% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 27.6%, Girls = 8.7%)
 16.7% currently use other tobacco products (Boys = 20.8%, Girls = 12.7%)
 20.2% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

36.0% think boys and 23.1% think girls who smoke have more friends
 20.0% think boys and 17.1% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

21.2% usually smoke at home
 27.5% buy cigarettes in a store
 75.0% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

62.4% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 59.4% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 78.3% think smoking should be banned from public places
 43.1% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 54.4% have one or more parents who smoke
 12.9% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

64.9% want to stop smoking
 59.8% tried to stop smoking during the past year
 78.5% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

58.4% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
 70.6% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
 64.5% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
 18.2% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
 9.9% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

60.3% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
 49.2% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
 55.9% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- Over 1 in 4 students currently use any form of tobacco; 18.0% of the students currently smoke cigarettes; 16.7% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- SHS exposure is very high – almost two-thirds of the students live in homes where others smoke and 6 in 10 students are around others who smoke outside of the home; Over half of the students have one or more parents who smoke and 12.9% of the students have friends who smoke.
- More than 2 in 5 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Almost 8 in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Nearly two-thirds of the current smokers want to stop smoking.
- About 1 in 5 students have an object with a cigarette brand logo.
- Close to 3 in 5 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; two-thirds of the students saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards and in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days.