

West Bank UNRWA (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



The West Bank 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 West Bank UNRWA could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The West Bank 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 West Bank 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 94.0%, and the overall response rate was 94.0%. A total of 1,700 students aged 13-15 participated in the West Bank UNRWA GYTS.

Prevalence

41.1% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 58.5%, Girl = 27.6%)
 45.6% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 57.6%, Girl = 35.3%)
 21.7% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 32.8%, Girl = 12.3%)
 30.5% currently smoke shisha (Boy = 39.0%, Girl = 22.4%)
 39.4% currently use other tobacco products (Boy = 49.6%, Girl = 30.6%)
 19.9% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

33.5% think boys and 19.1% think girls who smoke have more friends
 33.9% think boys and 23.9% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

27.6% usually smoke at home
 27.3% 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)

66.7% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 65.2% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 80.2% think smoking should be banned from public places
 64.3% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 56.7% have one or more parents who smoke
 22.0% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

56.1% want to stop smoking
 62.6% tried to stop smoking during the past year
 77.5% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

64.7% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
 71.4% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
 67.2% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
 22.1% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
 16.0% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

57.1% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
 45.8% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
 48.8% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- Almost half of students currently use any form of tobacco; 21.7% currently smoke cigarettes; 39.4% currently use other tobacco products.
- Three in 10 students currently smoke shisha
- SHS exposure is very high – two-thirds of the students live in homes where others smoke; over 3 in 5 students are exposed to smoke in public places; more than half the students have one or more parents who smoke.
- Close to two-thirds of the students think that smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Four in 5 students think smoking should be banned in public places.
- More than half the current smokers want to stop.
- Nearly one-quarter of the students has an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.
- Almost two-thirds of students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; 7 in 10 students saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards and in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days.

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