

Trinidad & Tobago 2011 (Ages 13-15) Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) FACT SHEET



The Trinidad & Tobago 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 Trinidad & Tobago could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Trinidad & Tobago GYTS was a school-based survey of students in forms 1 through 4 conducted in 2011.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for Trinidad & Tobago. 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. A total of 2,739 students participated in the Trinidad & Tobago GYTS of which 1,760 were ages 13 to 15 years. The overall response rate of all students surveyed was 92.5%.

Prevalence

- 29.9% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 33.9%, Girls = 25.2%)
- 18.4% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 20.0%, Girls = 16.3%)
- 9.3% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 10.9%, Girls = 7.0%)
- 12.0% currently use other tobacco products (Boys = 12.7%, Girls = 11.3%)
- 12.2% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

- 34.2% think boys and 15.1% think girls who smoke have more friends
- 8.0% think boys and 4.0% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 40.6% usually smoke at home
- 29.4% buy cigarettes in a store
- 65.9% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

- 36.0% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
- 46.3% are around others who smoke in enclosed public places
- 67.3% are around others who smoke in outdoor public places
- 70.1% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 78.3% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 31.4% have one or more parents who smoke
- 6.4% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

- 54.6% want to stop smoking
- 77.6% tried to stop smoking during the past year
- 70.8% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

- 75.8% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
- 57.3% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards or TV, in the past 30 days
- 49.0% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
- 10.2% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
- 10.0% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

- 39.3% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
- 21.1% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
- 38.2% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 18.4% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 9.3% of students currently smoke cigarettes; 12.0% currently use some other form of tobacco
- SHS exposure – 36.0% of students live in homes where others smoke, and 46.3% of the students are around others who smoke in enclosed public places; 31.4% of students have one or more parents who smoke
- Almost eight in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them
- Seven in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned
- 54.6% of the current smokers want to stop smoking
- One in 10 students has an object with a cigarette brand logo on it
- Three-quarters of the students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; 57.3% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards and almost half saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days