El Salvador (Ages 13-15) Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)



The El Salvador 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 El Salvador could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The El Salvador GYTS was a school-based survey of students in grades 7 through 9 conducted in 2009.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for El Salvador. 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 100.0%, the class response rate was 100.0%, the student response rate was 93.8%, and the overall response rate was 93.8%. A total of 3,063 students aged 13-15 participated in the El Salvador GYTS.

Prevalence

27.0% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 32.6%, Girl = 21.3%)

14.6% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 18.2%, Girl = 11.0%)

9.1% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 11.2%, Girl = 7.1%)

8.5% currently use other tobacco products (Boy = 10.7%, Girl = 6.4%)

15.4% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

17.6% think boys and 12.5% think girls who smoke have more friends 9.3% think boys and 6.5% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

12.5% usually smoke at home

21.7% buy cigarettes in a store

78.9% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

17.9% live in homes where others smoke in their presence

33.7% are around others who smoke in places outside their home

87.2% think smoking should be banned from public places

69.1% think smoke from others is harmful to them

14.1% have one or more parents who smoke

10.2% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

58.0% want to stop smoking

66.1% tried to stop smoking during the past year

73.8% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

67.4% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days

64.8% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days

62.0% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days

8.5% have an object with a cigarette brand logo

8.6% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

57.9% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking

23.5% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke

52.1% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 14.6% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 9.1% currently smoke cigarettes; 8.5% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- SHS exposure is moderate almost 1 in 5 of the students live in homes where others smoke, and one-third of the students are exposed to smoke around others outside of the home; over 1 in 10 of the students have at least one parent who smokes.
- Seven in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Close to 9 in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Almost 3 in 5 of the current smokers want to stop smoking.
- 8.5% of students have an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.
- Over two-thirds of the students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; over 3 in 5 students saw procigarette ads on billboards and in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days.