

Barbados (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



The Barbados 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 Barbados could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Barbados GYTS was a school-based survey of students in forms 1, 2 and 3 conducted in 1999.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for Barbados. 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 94.7%, the student response rate was 96.2%, and the overall response rate was 91.1%. A total of 1,317 students aged 13-15 participated in the Barbados GYTS.

Prevalence

34.7% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 33.5%, Girl = 35.5%)
 16.9% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 15.9%, Girl = 17.7%)
 10.8% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 9.2%, Girl = 11.9%)
 9.0% currently use other tobacco products (Boy = 10.1%, Girl = 8.4%)
 9.8% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

26.3% think boys and 15.4% think girls who smoke have more friends
 5.0% think boys and 3.8% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

41.2% usually smoke at home
 18.1% buy cigarettes in a store

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

22.5% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 51.3% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 79.4% think smoking should be banned from public places
 63.7% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 21.5% have one or more parents who smoke
 6.7% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

43.4% want to stop smoking
 63.5% tried to stop smoking during the past year
 54.1% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

77.2% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
 69.3% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
 69.1% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
 14.7% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
 7.3% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

32.0% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
 22.8% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
 29.2% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 16.9% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 10.8% currently smoke cigarettes; 9.0% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- SHS exposure is high – close to one-quarter of the students live in homes where others smoke, and half the students are exposed to smoke around others outside of the home; 1 in 5 students have at least one parent who smokes.
- More than 6 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Eight in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Over 2 in 5 current smokers want to stop smoking.
- One in 7 students has an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.
- Nearly 8 in 10 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.