

# U.S. Virgin Islands (Ages 13-15) Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) FACT SHEET . . . . .



The U.S. Virgin Islands 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 U.S. Virgin Islands could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The U.S. Virgin Islands GYTS was a school-based survey of students in grades 6-12 conducted in 2000.

A two-stage sample design was used to produce representative data for the U.S. Virgin Islands. At the first stage, a census was conducted of all schools. At the second stage, classes were randomly selected and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate. The school response rate was 89.6%, the class response rate was 100.0%, the student response rate was 86.5%, and the overall response rate was 77.5%. A total of 1,188 students aged 13-15 participated in the U.S. Virgin Islands GYTS.

## Prevalence

- 25.3% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 24.6%, Girl = 25.6%)
- 8.5% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 10.0%, Girl = 6.8%)
- 3.6% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 3.6%, Girl = 3.3%)
- 6.7% currently use other tobacco products (Boy = 8.6%, Girl = 4.9%)
- 23.0% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

## Knowledge and Attitudes

29.2% think young people who smoke cigarettes have more friends

## Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 16.2% buy cigarettes in a store
- 64.3% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

## Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

- 20.1% live in homes where others smoke cigarettes
- 73.0% think smoke from others is harmful to them

## Cessation - Current Smokers

- 48.8% want to stop smoking
- 47.2% tried to stop smoking during the past year
- 17.3% who have ever participated in a program to help quit using tobacco

## Media and Advertising

- 79.0% have seen or heard anti-smoking commercials during the past 30 days
- 37.3% have an object with a cigarette brand logo

## Highlights

- 8.5% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 3.6% currently smoke cigarettes; 6.7% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- SHS exposure is moderate – 1 in 5 students live in homes where others smoke.
- Over 7 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Almost half the current smokers want to stop smoking.
- More than one-third of the students have an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.
- Nearly 8 in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days.