

Bolivia – El Alto (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



The Bolivia - El Alto 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 Bolivia - El Alto could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Bolivia - El Alto GYTS was a school-based survey of students in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th secondary, and 8th primary conducted in 2003.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for Bolivia - El Alto. 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 88.6%, and the overall response rate was 88.6%. A total of 3,131 students aged 13-15 participated in the Bolivia - El Alto GYTS.

Prevalence

43.1% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 50.7%, Girl = 35.7%)
 23.5% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 27.4%, Girl = 19.7%)
 16.9% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 19.7%, Girl = 14.1%)
 11.3% currently use other tobacco products (Boy = 13.3%, Girl = 9.4%)
 23.5% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

22.2% think boys and 22.2% think girls who smoke have more friends
 18.5% think boys and 16.1% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

18.3% usually smoke at home
 43.6% buy cigarettes in a store
 64.4% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

33.8% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 47.5% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 77.6% think smoking should be banned from public places
 56.2% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 40.2% have one or more parents who smoke
 11.0% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

74.3% want to stop smoking
 74.3% tried to stop smoking during the past year
 76.6% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

75.9% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
 78.3% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
 72.6% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
 14.3% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
 13.1% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

49.0% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
 22.5% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
 35.3% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 23.5% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 16.9% currently smoke cigarettes; 11.3% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- SHS exposure is high – one-third of the students live in homes where others smoke, and close to half the students are exposed to smoke around others outside of the home; 2 in 5 students have at least one parent who smokes.
- Over half the students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- More than three-quarters of the students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Three-quarters of the current smokers want to stop smoking.
- One in 7 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; close to 8 in 10 students saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards and over 7 in 10 saw pro-tobacco ads in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days.