

Barbados 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, environmental tobacco smoke exposure (ETS), 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 2, 3 and 4 conducted in 2007.

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 95.5%, the student response rate was 83.2%, and the overall response rate was 79.4%. A total of 1,499 students participated in the Barbados GYTS.

Prevalence

- 32.4% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 40.2%, Girls = 25.3%)
- 28.6% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 34.5%, Girls = 23.2%)
- 11.6% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 14.3%, Girls = 9.3%)
- 24.2% currently use other tobacco products (Boys = 30.2%, Girls = 18.7%)
- 21.5% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

- 40.5% think boys and 22.1% think girls who smoke have more friends
- 11.0% think boys and 7.0% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 36.3% usually smoke at home
- 19.6% buy cigarettes in a store
- 55.6% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age*

Environmental Tobacco Smoke

- 25.9% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
- 59.6% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
- 74.8% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 70.1% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 25.6% have one or more parents who smoke
- 8.4% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

- 54.7% want to stop smoking
- 57.2% tried to stop smoking during the past year
- 59.6% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

- 64.7% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
- 48.2% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
- 41.8% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
- 15.7% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
- 10.9% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

- 33.3% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
- 19.0% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
- 30.0% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

* less than 35 participants

Highlights

- Almost 3 in 10 students currently use any form of tobacco; 11.6% of the students currently smoke cigarettes; almost one quarter currently use some other form of tobacco.
- ETS exposure is moderate – over a quarter of the students live in homes where others smoke, and approximately 6 in 10 of the students are exposed to smoke around others outside of the home; a quarter of the students have a parent who smokes, and 8% have friends who smoke.
- 7 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Over half of the current smokers want to stop smoking.
- 1 in 10 students were offered a free cigarette by a tobacco company representative.
- Almost two-thirds of the students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; about half of the students saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards and 4 in 10 saw pro-tobacco ads in newspapers and magazines in the past 30 days.