

Global Youth Tobacco Survey _ Belarus 2021

Goal – is to conduct a survey of school going adolescents for the aged 13-15 years aiming at smoking and other related to smoking aspects.

- **Project partner:** WHO, CDC
- **Project duration:** 01.12.2019–31.12.2021
- **Parent organization:** SPCH

Project participants – Department of International Cooperation, Scientific Organization Department

Project results – the data evidenced a successful anti-tobacco policy and an improvement in the tobacco consumption and tobacco products consumption by adolescents 13-15 years old, expressed in reducing of many indicators. The survey found that 8.4% of schoolchildren currently use various types of tobacco; 7.6% of schoolchildren currently use tobacco; 4.7% of schoolchildren smoke cigarettes; 1.7% use smokeless tobacco; 15.1% of schoolchildren smoke electronic cigarettes. Every 5-th student is a passive smoker.

Prevalence of current cigarettes smokers significantly decreased from 26.5% in 2004 to 4.7% in 2021.

Despite of current reduction of various types of tobacco smokers current GYTS data revealed that electronic cigarettes are extremely popular among adolescents – around 15%.

The number of smokeless tobacco users significantly increased in 3-fold.

GYTS
FACT SHEET
BELARUS 2021

GLOBAL YOUTH TOBACCO SURVEY

GYTS Objectives

The Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS), a component of the Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS), is a global standard for systematically monitoring youth tobacco use (smoking and smokeless) and tracking key tobacco control indicators.

GYTS is a cross-sectional, nationally representative school-based survey of students in grades associated with ages 13 to 15 years. GYTS uses a standard core questionnaire, sample design, and data collection protocol. It assists countries in fulfilling their obligations under the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) to generate comparable data within and across countries. WHO has developed MPOWER, a technical package of selected demand reduction measures contained in the WHO FCTC:

- Monitor tobacco use & prevention policies
- Protect people from tobacco smoke
- Offer help to quit tobacco use
- Warn about the dangers of tobacco
- Enforce bans on tobacco advertising, promotion, & sponsorship
- Raise taxes on tobacco

GYTS Methodology

GYTS uses a global standardized methodology that includes a two-stage sample design with schools selected with a probability proportional to enrollment size. The classes within selected schools are chosen randomly and all students in selected classes are eligible to participate in the survey. The survey uses a standard core questionnaire with a set of optional questions that countries can adapt to measure and track key tobacco control indicators. The questionnaire covers the following topics: tobacco use (smoking and smokeless), cessation, secondhand smoke (SHS), pro- and anti-tobacco media and advertising, access to and availability of tobacco products, and knowledge and attitudes regarding tobacco use. The questionnaire is self-administered; using scannable paper-based bubble sheets, it is anonymous to ensure confidentiality.

In Belarus, GYTS was conducted in 2021 by the National Scientific-Practical Centre of Hygiene, under the coordination of the Ministry of Health. The overall response rate was 81.2%. A total of 3,493 eligible students in grade 7, grade 8, grade 9 and grade 10 completed the survey, of which 2,683 were aged 13-15 years. Data are reported for students aged 13-15 years.

GYTS Highlights

TOBACCO USE

- 8.4% of students, 7.2% of boys, and 9.6% of girls currently used any tobacco products.
- 7.6% of students, 6.1% of boys, and 9.0% of girls currently smoked tobacco.
- 4.7% of students, 3.7% of boys, and 5.7% of girls currently smoked cigarettes.
- 1.7% of students, 1.7% of boys, and 1.5% of girls currently used smokeless tobacco.

ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

- 15.1% of students, 14.7% of boys, and 15.5% of girls currently used electronic cigarettes.

CESSATION

- Almost 5 in 10 (46.9%) students who currently smoke tobacco tried to stop smoking in the past 12 months.
- Almost 4 in 10 (39.7%) students who currently smoke tobacco wanted to stop smoking now.

SECONDHAND SMOKE

- 20.7% of students were exposed to tobacco smoke at home.
- 21.3% of students were exposed to tobacco smoke inside enclosed public places.

ACCESS & AVAILABILITY

- 26.4% of students who currently smoke cigarettes bought cigarettes from a store, shop, or tobacco kiosk.
- Among students who currently smoke cigarettes who tried to buy cigarettes, 45.3% were not prevented from buying them because of their age.

MEDIA

- Almost 5 in 10 (49.2%) students noticed anti-tobacco messages in the media.
- More than 3 in 10 (30.3%) students noticed tobacco advertisements or promotions when visiting points of sale.
- 1 in 20 (5.0%) students had something with a tobacco brand logo on it.

KNOWLEDGE & ATTITUDES

- 54.8% of students definitely thought other people's tobacco smoking is harmful to them.
- 85.2% of students favored prohibiting smoking inside enclosed public places.

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GLOBAL YOUTH TOBACCO SURVEY

TOBACCO USE

ANY TOBACCO USE (smoked and/or smokeless)	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Current tobacco users ¹	8.4	7.2	9.6*
Ever tobacco users ²	27.2	27.7	26.7

SMOKED TOBACCO

Current tobacco smokers ³	7.6	6.1	9.0*
Current cigarette smokers ⁴	4.7	3.7	5.7*
Frequent cigarette smokers ⁵	1.2	1.0	1.4
Current smokers of other tobacco ⁶	4.4	3.3	5.5*
Ever tobacco smokers ⁷	25.4	25.4	25.3
Ever cigarette smokers ⁸	20.7	20.9	20.5
Ever smokers of other tobacco ⁹	13.6	12.6	14.6

SMOKELESS TOBACCO

Current smokeless tobacco users ¹⁰	1.7	1.7	1.5
Ever smokeless tobacco users ¹¹	5.6	6.4	4.6*

SUSCEPTIBILITY

Never tobacco users susceptible to tobacco use in the future ¹²	14.6	13.8	15.5
Never tobacco smokers who thought they might enjoy smoking a cigarette ¹³	4.2	4.2	4.3

ACCESS & AVAILABILITY

Current cigarette smokers who bought cigarettes from a store, shop, or tobacco kiosk ¹⁴	26.4	35.2	21.4
Current cigarette smokers who were not prevented from buying cigarettes because of their age ¹⁵	45.3	--	--
Current cigarette smokers who bought cigarettes as individual sticks ¹⁶	11.9	--	--

MEDIA

TOBACCO ADVERTISING	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
Students who noticed tobacco advertisements or promotions at points of sale ¹⁷	30.3	32.2	28.5
Students who saw anyone using tobacco on television, videos, or movies ¹⁸	75.0	73.4	76.8
Students who were ever offered a free tobacco product from a tobacco company representative	4.1	5.3	2.8*
Students who had something with a tobacco brand logo on it	5.0	5.6	4.2

ANTI-TOBACCO ADVERTISING

Students who noticed anti-tobacco messages in the media ¹⁹	49.2	49.7	48.7
Students who noticed anti-tobacco messages at sporting or community events ²⁰	32.2	34.7	28.5*
Current tobacco smokers who thought about quitting because of a warning label ²¹	19.3	33.0	8.3*
Students who were taught in school about the dangers of tobacco use in the past 12 months	64.4	65.8	63.2

KNOWLEDGE & ATTITUDES

Students who definitely thought it is difficult to quit once someone starts smoking tobacco	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
	32.4	32.8	31.9
Students who thought smoking tobacco helps people feel more comfortable at celebrations, parties, and social gatherings	31.0	32.2	29.9
Students who definitely thought other people's tobacco smoking is harmful to them	54.8	57.9	51.8*
Students who favored prohibiting smoking inside enclosed public places	85.2	84.7	85.8
Students who favored prohibiting smoking at outdoor public places	65.8	68.5	62.7*

ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

Current electronic cigarette users ²²	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
	15.1	14.7	15.5

CESSATION

Current tobacco smokers who tried to stop smoking in the past 12 months	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
	46.9	55.2	41.7
Current tobacco smokers who wanted to stop smoking now	39.7	--	36.8
Current tobacco smokers who thought they would be able to stop smoking if they wanted to	91.9	92.1	91.8
Current tobacco smokers who have ever received help/advice from a program or professional to stop smoking	17.5	18.8	16.6

SECONDHAND SMOKE

Exposure to tobacco smoke at home ²³	OVERALL (%)	BOYS (%)	GIRLS (%)
	20.7	19.1	22.2
Exposure to tobacco smoke inside any enclosed public place ²⁴	21.3	16.6	26.1*
Exposure to tobacco smoke at any outdoor public place ²⁵	44.8	36.6	53.1*
Students who saw anyone smoking inside the school building or outside on school property ²⁶	29.1	30.0	28.0

Figure: Current Tobacco Use Among Students Aged 13-15 Years -- Belarus, GYTS 2021

Footnotes:

¹ Smoked cigarettes, smoked other type of tobacco, and/or used smokeless tobacco anytime during the past 30 days. ² Ever smoked tobacco and/or used smokeless tobacco. ³ Smoked cigarettes or other type of tobacco 20 or more days of the past 30 days. ⁴ Smoked cigarettes anytime during the past 30 days. ⁵ Smoked cigarettes 20 or more days of the past 30 days. ⁶ Smoked tobacco other than cigarettes anytime during the past 30 days. ⁷ Ever smoked cigarettes or other type of tobacco, even one or two puffs. ⁸ Ever smoked cigarettes, even one or two puffs. ⁹ Ever smoked tobacco other than cigarettes, even one or two puffs. ¹⁰ Used smokeless tobacco anytime during the past 30 days. ¹¹ Ever used smokeless tobacco. ¹² Susceptible to future tobacco use includes those who answered "definitely yes", "probably yes", or "probably not" to using tobacco if one of their best friends offered it to them, or "definitely yes", "probably yes", or "probably not" to using tobacco during the next 12 months. ¹³ Those who answered "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" to the statement: "I think I might enjoy smoking a cigarette". ¹⁴ Used electronic cigarettes anytime during the past 30 days. Current use of electronic cigarettes is assessed separately from cigarettes, other smoked tobacco products, and smokeless tobacco products and is not included in the current definition of current any tobacco use. ¹⁵ During the past 7 days. ¹⁶ During the past 30 days. ¹⁷ Outlet from which current cigarette smokers bought cigarettes the last time they smoked cigarettes in the past 30 days. ¹⁸ Among those who tried to buy cigarettes during the past 30 days. ¹⁹ Based on the last purchase, among those who bought cigarettes during the past 30 days. ²⁰ Among those who visited a point of sale in the past 30 days. ²¹ Among those who watched television, video, or movie in the past 30 days. ²² Among those who attended sporting or community events in the past 30 days. ²³ Among those who noticed warning labels on cigarette packages in the past 30 days.

NOTE: Data are weighted to be nationally representative of all students aged 13-15 years who are enrolled in school. Percentages reflect the prevalence of each indicator in each group, not the distribution across groups. ^{*}Estimates based on unweighted cases less than 35 are not presented. ^{*}Gender comparisons are significant at p < 0.05.

Last updated 20 May 2021

