

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 2004.

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 91.5%, the class response rate was 100.0%, the student response rate was 88.4%, and the overall response rate was 80.9%. A total of 1,433 students aged 13-15 participated in the U.S. Virgin Islands GYTS.

Prevalence

- 25.0% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 23.3%, Girl = 26.2%)
- 7.8% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 9.9%, Girl = 5.7%)
- 3.4% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 3.1%, Girl = 3.5%)
- 6.2% currently use other tobacco products (Boy = 9.0%, Girl = 3.7%)
- 19.3% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

- 31.7% think young people who smoke cigarettes have more friends

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 16.4% buy cigarettes in a store
- 62.9% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

- 22.2% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
- 70.1% think smoke from others is harmful to them

Cessation - Current Smokers

- 64.1% want to stop smoking
- 56.5% tried to stop smoking during the past year
- 11.2% who ever participated in a program to help quit using tobacco

Media and Advertising

- 75.1% who have seen or heard anti-smoking commercials in the past 30 days
- 11.4% have an object with a cigarette brand logo

School

- 33.5% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking

Highlights

- 7.8% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 3.4% currently smoke cigarettes; 6.2% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- SHS exposure is moderate – 1 in 5 students live in homes where others smoke.
- Seven in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Almost two-thirds of the current smokers want to stop smoking.
- More than 1 in 10 students have an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.
- Three-quarters of the students saw anti-smoking commercials in the past 30 days.