

Puerto Rico (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



The Puerto Rico 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 Puerto Rico could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Puerto Rico GYTS was a school-based survey of students in 7-12 conducted in 2004.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for Puerto Rico. 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 52.0%, the class response rate was 100.0%, the student response rate was 85.6%, and the overall response rate was 44.5%. A total of 783 students aged 13-15 participated in the Puerto Rico GYTS.

Prevalence

- 27.7% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 28.1%, Girl = 27.4%)
- 12.0% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 13.6%, Girl = 10.4%)
- 8.6% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 8.4%, Girl = 8.9%)
- 8.1% currently use other tobacco products (Boy = 10.4%, Girl = 6.0%)
- 25.6% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 14.8% buy cigarettes in a store
- 72.8% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

- 33.5% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
- 78.1% think smoke from others is harmful to them

Cessation - Current Smokers

- 49.8% want to stop smoking
- 46.0% tried to stop smoking during the past year
- 19.4% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

- 71.8% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
- 10.1% have an object with a cigarette brand logo

School

- 52.3% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking

Highlights

- 12.0% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 8.6% currently smoke cigarettes; 8.1% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- SHS exposure is moderate – one-third of the students live in homes where others smoke.
- Almost 4 in 5 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Nearly half the current smokers want to stop smoking.
- One in 10 students has an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.
- Over 7 in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days.