



Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

Tobacco use is a major preventable cause of premature death and disease worldwide. Globally approximately 5.4 million people die each year due to tobacco-related illnesses. Locally 500 people die each year due to tobacco use. The findings from the latest Health Behaviour in School Children (2014) study show that 12% of boys and 11% of girls admitted that they smoked cigarettes.

An efficient and systematic surveillance mechanism is essential to monitor and manage this epidemic. The GYTS was initiated in 1999 and many countries worldwide conducted the study. It is a nationally representative school-based survey that involves the selection of a minimum of 20 schools and the inclusion of at least 1500 children aged 13-15 years.

Thus far, GYTS has been implemented in more than 185 countries. GYTS enhances countries capacity to design, implement, and evaluate tobacco control interventions, and is also an important tool in providing data to assist countries in supporting the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, and also to the development of various scientific reports including the WHO Global Tobacco Control Report.

The Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Department within the Ministry of Health is currently conducting this survey in schools in Malta and Gozo. Data from the GYTS will greatly enhance our ability to target appropriate actions to prevent and reduce tobacco smoking in our young people.

For further information, please contact Mr Mario Scicluna on 23266000 or by email health.pro@gov.mt

Further details of the study can be found at this website:

<http://www.who.int/tobacco/surveillance/gyts/en/>



GYTS Questions and Answers

Q. What is GYTS?

A. The Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) is a nationally representative school-based survey that collects data on students aged 13–15 years using a standardized methodology for constructing the sample frame, selecting schools and classes, and processing data. The GYTS surveillance system is intended to enhance the capacity of countries to design, implement, and evaluate tobacco control and prevention programs

Q. Why is the survey being done?

A. The HPDPD will use the survey results to help develop a comprehensive tobacco control programme and policies. The survey results also will be used to develop school health programmes designed to prevent and reduce tobacco use among students.

Q. Will student's names be used or linked to the survey?

A. No. The survey has been designed to protect each student's privacy. Students do not put their name on the questionnaire.

Q. How long does it take to fill out the survey?

A. One class/section period is all that is needed to fill out the written survey.

Q. Does the survey include a physical test?

A. The survey does not include a physical test or exam.

Q. What are the topics of the questions on the survey?

A. All questions on the survey relate to the students' attitudes, behaviors, and knowledge about tobacco use, intent to use, exposure to tobacco use, and exposure to tobacco marketing/advertising.

Q. How were the schools and students selected to be in the survey?

A. Appropriate statistical procedures were used to draw a representative sample of schools. Then classes are randomly selected in each participating school. All students in each selected class are eligible for participation.

Q. Do students take the survey more than once to see how their behaviors change?

A. No. Students who take part cannot be tracked because their names are not on the survey.

Q. Is student participation anonymous? How is student privacy protected?

A. Survey administration procedures are designed to protect student privacy and allow for anonymous participation. Students submit an optically scannable answer sheet containing no personal identifiers, which are then placed in a large box or large envelope. Published reports do not include names of participating schools or students.

Q. Is this survey voluntary? What if schools or students do not choose to participate?

A. Participation in GYTS is voluntary. However, to develop accurate country estimates of tobacco use and intent to use tobacco among adolescents, participation rates must be high. Selected schools and students cannot be replaced. The goal is to achieve 90 to 95 percent participation by selected schools and students.