

The Republic Of Palau (Ages 13-15) Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)



FACT SHEET

The Palau 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 Palau could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Palau GYTS was a school-based survey of students in Grades 6 to 12 conducted in 2009.

All schools in Palau containing grades 6 to 12 were included in the sampling frame. A census was done of all schools. All students within all schools were surveyed. The school response rate was 100.0%, the class response rate was 100.0%, the student response rate was 91.3%, and the overall response rate was 91.3%. A total of 883 students aged 13-15 participated in the Palau GYTS.

Prevalence

- 75.4% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 78.2%, Girl = 72.7%)
- 50.3% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 58.3%, Girl = 42.4%)
- 41.3% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 51.9%, Girl = 31.1%)
- 29.1% currently use smokeless tobacco products (Boy = 30.9%, Girl = 27.2%)
- 15.7% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

- 23.2% of current smokers and 10.8% of never smokers think smoking cigarettes makes young people look cool or fit in.
- 83% of current smokers and 84.8% of never smokers think young people risk harming themselves if they smoke within 1 and 5 cigarettes per day.

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 41.2% of current smokers smoked cigarettes on school property during the past 30 days.
- 17.9% buy cigarettes in a store.
- 47.8% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age.

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

- 53.8% live in homes where others smoke, and 44.2% have been exposed to SHS in their homes.
- 56% think smoking should be banned from public places.
- 91% think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- 46.8% have one or more of their four closest friends who smoke.

Cessation - Current Smokers

- 73.8% of current smokers want to stop smoking.

Media and Advertising

- 60.9% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days.
- 20.6% saw advertising for cigarettes and/or other tobacco products, in the past 30 days.
- 24.3% have an object with a cigarette brand logo.

School

- 61.6% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking.
- 56.1% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of using tobacco with betel nut.

Highlights

- Half (50.3%) of students currently use any form of tobacco; 41.3% currently smoke cigarettes; 29.1% currently use smokeless tobacco.
- SHS exposure is high – over one-half of the students live in homes where others smoke, and almost half of the students have one or more of their four closest friends who smoke.
- 9 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Almost 6 in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Three-fourths (75.4%) of current smokers want to stop smoking.
- About 1 in 4 (24.3%) students have an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.
- Three out of every 5 students (60.9%) saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; about 1 in 5 (20.6%) students saw pro-cigarette and/or other tobacco product advertising in the past 30 days.