

# global youth tobacco survey

## Country reports

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, developed the Global Youth Tobacco Survey to track tobacco use among youth across countries using a common methodology and core questionnaire. Information from the Survey is compiled within the participating country by a Research Coordinator nominated by the Ministry of Health, and technically reviewed by WHO and CDC. The content has not otherwise been edited by WHO or CDC.

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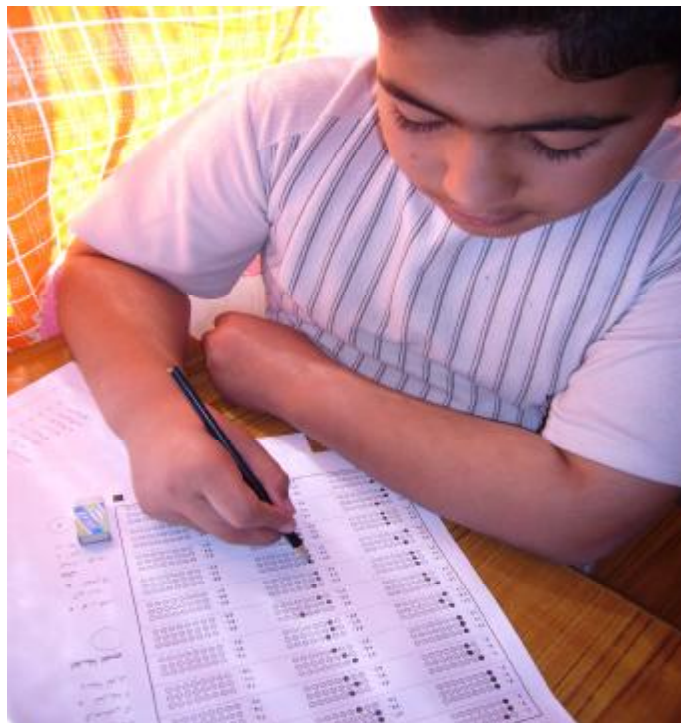


World Health Organization  
CDC/ Atlanta  
Canadian Public Health Association

## **Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) Iraq – Baghdad (16/3-8/4/2008)**

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## **Introduction:**

Tobacco use is one of the major preventable causes of premature death and disease in the world. A disproportionate share of the global tobacco burden falls on developing countries, where 84% of 1.3 billion current smokers reside. The World Health Organization (WHO) attributes approximately 5 million deaths per year to tobacco use, a number expected to exceed 8 million per year by 2030 with approximately 70% of these deaths occurring in developing countries.

Cigarette smoking is responsible for heart disease, cancers of the lung, larynx, mouth, esophagus, & bladder, stroke, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Starting to smoke at younger ages increases the risk of death from a smoking –related cause, and lowers the age at which death is likely to occur. Young people who start smoking early in life will often find it difficult to quit smoking.

In 1999, the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) was initiated by WHO, CDC, and the Canadian Public Health Association to monitor tobacco use, attitudes about tobacco use, and exposure to secondhand smoke among students aged 13–15 years. Since 1999, the survey has been completed by approximately 2 million students in 151 countries.

## **Methods:**

GYTS is school – based survey of a defined geographic site 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 Iraq - Baghdad GYTS was a school-based survey of students in( Middle 1, Middle 2, Middle 3, and Preparatory 4) conducted in 2008.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for Iraq - Baghdad. 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 100.0%, the student response rate was 94.0%, and the overall response rate was 94.0%. A total of 3,604 students participated in the Iraq - Baghdad GYTS.

In the Baghdad Administrative Division in 2008 there were (610) schools and (269,990) students in grades (middle 1-3) and (preparatory 4) in three types of schools: boys only (351 with 162,654 students), girls only (227 with 99,459 students), and co-ed (32 with 7,877 students).

The Iraq - Baghdad 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, environmental tobacco smoke exposure, cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum.

### **Data analysis:**

A weight has been associated with each questionnaire to reflect the likelihood of sampling each student and to reduce bias by compensating for differing patterns of no response. The weight used for estimation is given by:

$$W = W1 * W2 * f1 * f2 * f3 * f4$$

W1 = the inverse of the probability of selecting the school

W2 = the inverse of the probability of selecting the classroom within the school

f1 = a school-level no response adjustment factor calculated by school size category (small, medium, large).

f2= a class adjustment factor calculated by school

f3 = a student-level no response adjustment factor calculated by class

f4 = a post stratification adjustment factor calculated by gender and grade

### **Use of the weighted results:**

The weighted results can be used to make important inferences concerning tobacco use risk behaviors of students in Baghdad in Middle 1, Middle 2, Middle 3, and Preparatory 4.

## Results:

- **Prevalence:**

Table 1- Percentage of students aged (13-15) years who reported using tobacco products and among never smokers had interest in initiating cigarette smoking in the next year, by gender –Global youth tobacco survey, Iraq (Baghdad), 2008

Gender	Ever smoked cigarettes	Ever smoked shisha	Current cigarette smoker	Current shisha smoker	Never smokers likely to initiate cigarette smoking in the next year
Total %(95%CI* )	7.4 (5.2-10.6)	12.9 (10.6-15.6)	3.2 (2.1-4.8)	6.3 (5.0-7.9)	13.0 (10.1-16.5)
Boy %(95%CI* )	7.4 (5.1-10.7)	14.6 (11.5-18.3)	3.3 (1.9-5.7)	6.7 (5.5-8.1)	13.7 (10.0-18.5)
Girl %(95%CI* )	6.8 (3.6-12.3)	10.3 (7.6-13.9)	2.7 (1.5-4.8)	5.0 (3.3-7.5)	11.8 (9.3-14.8)

\* Confidence interval

Overall 7.4% of students had ever smoked cigarettes and 12.9% had ever smoked shisha (Table 1). Boys were more likely to have ever smoked shisha than to have ever smoked cigarettes (14.6%, 7.4%, respectively).

Current use of shisha (6.3%) was significantly higher than current cigarette smoking (3.2%); there was no gender difference for either. Overall, (13.0%) of never smokers indicated they were likely to initiate cigarette smoking in

the next year. For boys and girls, likely initiation of cigarette smoking among never smokers was higher than current cigarette smoking. (Table 1)

## Factors influencing tobacco use:

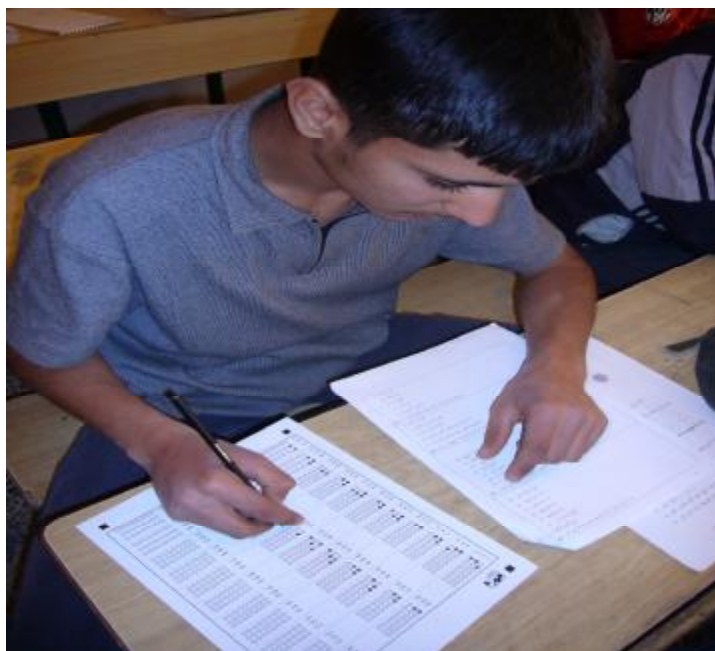
- **School curriculum:**

Table 2- Percentage of students aged (13-15) years who have been taught in school about the dangers of tobacco use, by gender –Global youth tobacco survey, Iraq (Baghdad), 2008

	During this school year, were taught in any classes about the dangers of smoking
Total %(95%CI*)	41.8 (38.0 – 45.7)
Boy %(95%CI*)	40.3 (37.5 – 43.3)
Girl %(95%CI*)	43.0 (36.6 – 49.5)

\* Confidence interval

About, 41.8% of students reported having been taught in school during the past year about the dangers of smoking. (Table 2)



- **Cessation:**

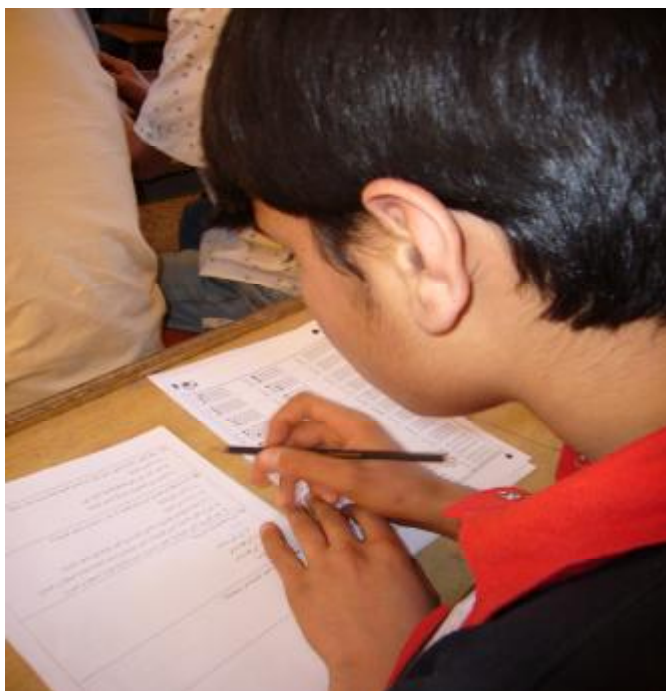
Table 3- Cessation, by gender –Global youth tobacco survey, Iraq (Baghdad), 2008

	Current smokers who want to stop smoking now	Percent of current cigarette smokers who tried to stop smoking during the past year	Percent of current smokers who received help to stop smoking
<b>Total</b> %(95%CI*)	58.9 (32.2- 81.2)	60.6 (34.0- 82.1)	84.8 (55.2- 96.2)
<b>Boy</b> %(95%CI*)	62.2 (18.9- 92.1)	64.7 (24.5- 91.2)	94.0 (62.5- 99.3)
<b>Girl</b> %(95%CI*)	70.2 (48.8- 85.3)	52.8 (21.0- 82.5)	71.7 (30.4- 93.6)

\* Confidence interval

Overall, six in ten students who currently smoke reported that they want to stop smoking now & (84.8%) of them has received help to stop smoking. About (60.6%) of current cigarette smokers who tried to stop smoking during the past year. (Table 3)





- **Exposure to second hand smoke:**

Table 4- Percentage of students aged (13-15) years who reported exposure to second hand smoke, by gender –Global youth tobacco survey, Iraq (Baghdad), 2008

	Exposure to secondhand smoke in public places	One or more parents smoke cigarettes	One or more parents smoke shisha	In favor of banning smoking in public places
<b>Total</b> %(95%CI*)	29.2 (26.4-32.2)	39.3 (36.2-42.4)	13.1 (11.4-15.1)	72.6 (68.7-76.2)
<b>Boy</b> %(95%CI*)	27.8 (25.2- 30.4)	38.2 (34.3-42.1)	11.0 (8.6-14.0)	70.2 (66.9-73.3)
<b>Girl</b> %(95%CI*)	30.7 (25.0-37.0)	40.9 (38.0-43.7)	15.4 (12.5-18.8)	74.9 (68.7-80.3)

\* Confidence interval

With regard to second hand smoke exposure, 29.2% of students reported that they were exposed to smoke in public places in the past week, 39.3% reported their parents smoked cigarettes, 13.1% reported that their parents smoked shisha, and 72.6% (Seven in 10 of the students) were in favor of banning smoking in public places (Table 4).





- **Knowledge and attitudes:**

Table 5- Knowledge and attitudes, by gender –Global youth tobacco survey, Iraq (Baghdad), 2008

	Think boys who smoke have more friends	Think girls who smoke have more friends	Think smoking makes boys look more attractive	Think smoking makes girls look more attractive
Total %(95%CI*)	20.3	13.2	14.5	10.9
Boy %(95%CI*)	21.1	15.1	14.9	12.9
Girl %(95%CI*)	18.4	10.0	13.5	8.0

- Confidence interval

About 20.3% (21.1% boys- 18.4% girls) think boys and 13.2% (15.1% boys- 10.0% girls) think girls who smoke have more friends. While 14.5% (14.9% boys – 13.5% girls) think boys and 10.9% (12.9% boys – 8.0% girls) think girls who smoke look more attractive. (Table 5)



- **Media and advertising:**

Table 6- Percentage of students aged (13-15) years who reported exposure to anti- and pro- tobacco media advertising and promotion, by gender –Global youth tobacco survey, Iraq (Baghdad), 2008

	During the past month saw any anti-smoking media messages	During the past month saw any advertisement for cigarettes on billboards	During the past month saw any advertisement for cigarettes at point of sale locations	During the past month saw any advertisements or promotions for cigarettes in newspapers or magazines	Have an object (T-shirt, pen, backpack, etc) with a cigarette brand logo on it	Ever offered a “free” cigarette by a cigarette company representative
<b>Total</b> %(95%CI*)	59.6 (57.2 – 61.9)	67.9 (65.6 – 70.1)	67.6 (64.2 – 71.1)	59.8 (56.9 – 62.6)	13.2 (10.8 – 16.2)	7.3 (4.8 – 11.0)
<b>Boy</b> %(95%CI*)	59.0 (55.6-62.4)	67.4 (64.3 – 70.4)	67.2 (63.6 – 72.0)	58.4 (54.3 – 62.4)	15.0 (12.5 – 17.8)	8.9 (5.7 – 13.5)

Girl %(95%CI*)	60.7 (56.5-64.7)	69.1 (64.6 – 73.2)	68.2 (64.3 – 73.3)	61.7 (58.1 – 65.0)	10.8 (8.6 – 13.5)	5.0 (3.4 – 7.3)
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\* Confidence interval

Regarding advertising, 59.6% of the students (Six out of 10 students) reported having seen any anti-cigarette media message in the past month; while, 67.9% (over two thirds of the students ) had seen pro-cigarette advertising on billboards, 67.6% had seen pro-cigarette advertising at point of sale locations, and 59.8% had seen pro-cigarette advertising in newspapers or magazines. About, 13.2% of students (one in 10 students) reported that they had an object with a cigarette brand logo on it and 7.3% reported that they had been offered free cigarettes by a cigarette company representative (table 6).

- **Access and availability:**

Table 7- Access and availability, by gender –Global youth tobacco survey, Iraq (Baghdad), 2008

	Current cigarette smokers usually smoke at home	Current shisha smokers usually smoke at home	Current shisha smokers usually smoke at coffee shop	Percent current smokers who usually buy their tobacco in a store	Current smokers who usually buy their cigarettes in a store were not refused purchase because of their age	Ever offered a free cigarette by a cigarette company representative
<b>Total</b> %(95%CI*)	39.6 (19.8 – 63.4)	42.2 (24.7 – 61.9)	22.3 (13.9 – 33.9)	50.9 (27.4-74.0)	84.1 (56.0-95.7)	7.3 (4.8-11.0)
<b>Boy</b> %(95%CI*)	< 35 cases in denominator	36.1 (22.2 – 52.7)	29.2 (16.9 – 45.7)	71.5 (54.8- 83.9)	82.4 (52.7-95.2)	8.9 (5.7-13.5)
<b>Girl</b> %(95%CI*)	< 35 cases in denominator	59.0 (29.7 – 83.0)	7.8 (1.3 – 35.2)	17.7 (3.7-54.8)	100.0	5.0 (3.4-7.3)

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\* Confidence interval

Among current cigarette smokers, 39.6% reported that they usually smoke at home; whereas for current shisha smokers, 42.2% reported that they usually smoke at home and 22.3% reported that they usually smoke at coffee shops. About two thirds of current smokers who usually buy their cigarettes in a store had not been refused purchase because of their age & about (7.3%) ever offered a free cigarette by a cigarette company representative. (Table 7)

### **Limitations:**

The findings in this report are subject to at least these limitations:-

- First- Because the sample surveyed was limited to students, it is not representative of all youths aged 13–15 years.
- Second - The findings apply only to youths who were in school on the day the survey was administered and who completed the survey.

However, student response was high (94.0%), suggesting that bias attributed to absence or no response was limited.

- Third - Data are based on self-reports of students, who might have underreported or over reported their tobacco use or that of their parents.

The extent of this bias cannot be determined; however, responses to tobacco-related questions on surveys similar to GYTS have shown good test-retest reliability

### **Conclusion:**

- Current use of shisha (6.3%) among students in Iraq / Baghdad is significantly higher than current cigarette smoking (3.2%); there is no gender difference for either.
- For boys and girls, likely initiation of cigarette smoking among never smokers is almost four times higher than current cigarette smoking.
- About six in ten of current cigarette smokers, tried to stop smoking during the past year and a low percentage of students who have been taught about the dangers of tobacco use in schools.

- Six out of ten students have seen any anti-cigarette media message in the past month; while, over two thirds of them had seen pro-cigarette advertising on billboards.
- During the last three years ministry of health (M.O.H) put strategies that focused on tobacco control including :
  1. In May 2007, Iraq ratifies the WHO Framework Convention on tobacco Control (WHO FCTC).
  2. Working to have data base on tobacco issues by implementing national surveys (Chronic non communicable diseases risk factors survey/2006, Iraq family health survey /2006-2007) & sharing the global surveys (GYTS, GSPS, and GHPSS).
  3. There are many projects are working to ban smoking in public places including:
    - Banning smoking in MOH buildings.
    - Establishing tobacco free health institutes in Baghdad and other governorates.
    - In collaboration with WHO & Al-Nahrain medical college in Baghdad, (smoking free medical college project) is working.

- Initiating the “Tobacco Free School Project”  
in 30 primary schools in Baghdad to raise teacher, student, and family awareness about the dangers of tobacco use.