

## **The Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS – Oman)**

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A one-day training workshop was conducted in the capitol Muscat in March 2003. It aimed to standardize the research methodology. A guidebook was prepared in Arabic and distributed to all research administrators. During the training workshop, the survey was conducted in two schools in the Muscat area (not included in the sample) in order to pilot the survey and assure the research administrators.

A survey team was established in each of the nine regions. It consisted of the school health in-charge as head of the team and 2-3 school health nurses. Each team member was assigned to specific schools and was responsible for delivery and collection of all survey documentations. All necessary materials and copies of papers, envelopes, pens and pencils were offered, free of charge, to the survey administration according to their duties and needs.

Permission to enter the schools and run the survey procedures was granted through an official letter to all educational regions and schools in co-ordination with MOE.

Parents' written consent was obtained. Data collection completed in two weeks time. The research coordinator reviewed the packages of answer sheets, header sheets (containing class code and school code), classroom level forms and school level forms. This was done to establish quality data management throughout the data gathering process. All these packages were collected and sent to CDC for data entry.

### **Analysis**

Analysis was done using EPINFO 2002, a soft ware package that accounted for the complex sampling design and weighing factors in the data set, to calculate standard errors and prevalence estimates. Statistical differences included in this report were determined by comparing the range of 95% confidence interval (95% CI) for the estimates. If the ranges for the 95% CI did not overlap the difference were statistically significant.

### **Results**

A total of 2024 students were invited to participate and 1,962 of them completed the survey. The school response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 96.9% and the overall response rate was 96.9%. Table below illustrates the study subjects by school grade and gender. (44students have no response to this question)

**Table 3: Number of respondents in the Oman GYTS, 2003.**

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Boys (%)</i>	<i>Girls (%)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Eighth	264 (39.1)	412 (60.9)	676
Ninth	291 (59.4)	199 (40.6)	490
Tenth	450 (59.8)	302 (40.2)	752
Total	1005	913	1918

## 1. Tobacco use

**Table 4: Percent of students who use tobacco, Oman GYTS, 2003.**

Category	Ever Smoked Cigarettes, Even One or Two Puffs	Current Users			Never Smokers Susceptible to Initiating Smoking
		Any tobacco product	Cigarettes	Other Tobacco Products	
Total	19.5 (±3.9)	18.2 (±3.9)	9.1(±3.4)	12.8 (±2.5)	14.3 (±2.8)
Boys	31.4 (±5.9)	27.3 (±6.4)	16.2 (±6.1)	17.8 (±4.0)	19.1 (±3.9)
Girls	6.8 (±2.8)	8.9 (±1.8)	1.8 (±1.1)	7.7 (±1.5)	10.6 (±3.7)

Any Tobacco product includes both cigarettes and other tobacco product.

One in five (19.5%) of all students have ever smoked cigarettes (table 3) with ever smoking five times as high for boys (31.4%) compared to girls (6.8%). Approximately one in five students currently use any tobacco products. Over 9% of students currently smoke cigarettes while 12.8% currently use other tobacco products. Current use of any tobacco product, cigarette smoke and use of other tobacco product were significantly higher for boys than girls. Girls who currently use other tobacco products were four times higher than those who are current user of cigarettes.

Over 14% of all students indicate that they were likely to initiate smoking during next year with significant gender differences (twice as high as for boys (19.1%) compared to girls 10.6%).

**Table 5: Percent of students who use Shishah, Oman GYTS, 2003.**

Category	Ever used Shishah	current use Shishah
Total	27.3 (±3.3)	9.9 (±2.6)
Boys	37.2 (±3.7)	16.6 (± 3.6)
Girls	17.2 (± 2.7)	2.6 (± 1.2)

Nearly one third of all students (27.3%) have ever used Shishah, which was twice as high for boys than girls. One in ten of all students (9.9%) currently use Shishah. The figure was five times as high for boys than girls.

**Table 6: Percent of students who use chewing tobacco, Oman GYTS, 2003.**

Category	Ever used chewing tobacco	Currently using chewing tobacco
Total	15.1(±2.8)	9.1(± 2.7)
Boys	20.3 (± 4.3)	15.3 (± 3.7)
Girls	10.2(± 2.4)	2.7 (± 1.4)

15.1% of all students have ever used chewing tobacco with twice as high for boys than girls. One in ten of all students (9.1%) currently use chewing tobacco with five times as high for boys than girls.

## **2. Schools and tobacco**

**Table 7: School Curriculum, Oman GYTS, 2003.**

<i>Category</i>	<i>Percent taught dangers of smoking</i>	<i>Percent discussed reasons why people in their age smoke</i>
Total	46.2 (±5.6)	33.9 (±5.0)
Boys	44.8 (±5.1)	35.5 (±4.9)
Girls	47.0 (±9.6)	31.5 (±8.8)

Less than half of all students were taught in schools during the past year about the dangers of smoking (46.2%) and one third of students had discussed during the past year reasons why people in their age smoke (33.9%). There was no significant difference by gender.

## **3. Cessation**

**Table 8: Desire to quit smoking, Oman GYTS, 2003.**

<i>Current Smokers</i>		
<i>Category</i>	<i>Percent desire to stop</i>	<i>Percent tried to stop this year</i>
Total	77.7 (±11.8)	67.3 (±10.4)
Boys	79.3 (±11.7)	68.7 (±11.9)
Girls	61.6 (±34.7)*	54.7 (±36.9)*

\*The number of respondents (n) in this cell is less than 35

Eight in ten students who currently smoke cigarettes stated that they currently desire to stop smoking (77.7%). Seven in ten students tried to stop smoking during the past year but failed (67.3%)

## **4. Environmental tobacco smoke**

**Table 9: Environmental Tobacco Smoke, Oman GYTS, 2003.**

<i>Category</i>	<i>Exposed to smoke from others in their home</i>		<i>Exposed to smoke from others in public places</i>		<i>Percent think smoking should be banned from public places</i>
	<i>Never Smokers</i>	<i>Current Smokers</i>	<i>Never Smokers</i>	<i>Current Smokers</i>	
Total	16.8 (±3.8)	55.0 (±16.9)	27.4 (±3.4)	81.1 (±10.0)	86.0 (±2)
Boys	15.9 (±4.4)	53.5 (±18.1)	32.1 (±5.0)	80.5 (±11.1)	82.7 (±2.9)
Girls	17.7 (±6.0)	88.6 (±14.9)	23.7 (±5.6)	87.6 (±20.1)	89.3 (±2.9)

The exposure to environmental tobacco smoke for places both inside and outside of the home was three times higher for current cigarette smokers compared to those who have never smoked cigarettes.

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Approximately nine in ten (86.0%) students think that smoking should be banned in public places.

### 5. Knowledge and attitudes

**Table 10: Knowledge and Attitudes, Oman GYTS, 2003.**

Category	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	
	Never Smokers	Current Smokers	Never Smokers	Current Smokers	Never Smokers	Current Smokers	Never Smokers	Current Smokers
Total	32.2 (±2.3)	49.6 (±18.4)	16.9 (±2.1)	14.6 (±8.2)	22.1 (±2.7)	43.8 (±19.3)	15.9 (±2.8)	20.1 (±8.0)
Boys	31.9 (±3.8)	52.6 (±19.8)	17.4 (±3.1)	14.8 (±8.9)	22.5 (±3.2)	44.9 (±21.8)	20.5 (±3.3)	29.6 (±29.2)
Girls	32.1 (±2.8)	29.4 (±30.9)	16.0 (±2.7)	5.1 (±9.3)	21.7 (±4.5)	37.6 (±15.7)	21.9 (±8.3)	29.6 (±29.2)

Approximately one third of never smokers (32.2%) think that boys who smoke have more friends while one fifth of them (22.1%) think that smoking makes boys look more attractive with no significant difference between boys and girls. Half of current smokers (49.6%) think that boys who smoke have more friends and (43.8%) think that smoking makes boys look more attractive with no significant difference by gender.

One in five of never smokers think that girls who smoke have more friends and look more attractive (16.9% and 15.9% respectively) with no significant difference between males and females. One in five of current smokers think that girls who smoke have more friends and look more attractive (14.6% and 20.1% respectively) with no significant difference between males and females.

**Table 11: Attitude towards smoking from others and Shishah, Oman GYTS, 2003.**

Category	Definitely think smoke from others is harmful to them		Think that Shisha is less harmful than cigarette	
	Never Smokers	Current Smokers	Never used Shishah	Current use Shishah
Total	54.7 (± 3.5)	35.5 (±14.6)	34 (± 4.9)	43.6 (± 7.2)
Boys	49.6 (±4.7)	34.6 (±16.0)	32.8 (± 7)	42.4 (± 9.2)
Girls	58.2 (±4.5)	41.0 (±37.7)*	35.6 (±7.2)	47 (±9.0)

\*The number of respondents (n) in this cell is less than 35

Nearly four in ten of current smokers (35.5%) and more than half of non-smokers (54.7%) definitely think that smoke from others is harmful to them with no significant difference between boys and girls. Nearly four in ten of current use of Shishah (43.6%) and one third of never use Shishah (34%)

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think that Shishah is less harmful than cigarettes with no significant difference between boys and girls.

### 6. Media and advertising

**Table 12: Media and Advertising, Oman GYTS, 2003.**

Category	Percent Saw Anti-Smoking Media Messages	Percent Saw Pro-Tobacco Messages in Newspapers and Magazines		Percent Who Had Object With a Cigarette Brand Logo On It		Percent Offered Free Cigarettes by a Tobacco Company Representative	
		Never Smokers	Current smokers	Never Smokers	Current Smokers	Never Smokers	Current Smokers
Total	74.1 (±1.9)	63.5 (±3.9)	76.3 (±10.2)	10.8 (±2.1)	14.7 (±7.6)	11.8 (±1.9)	14.3 (±7.2)
Boys	75.3 (±2.4)	63.6 (±5.9)	77.7 (±11.1)	14.0 (±4.6)	11.8 (±7.4)	13.5 (±2.4)	12.2 (±6.9)
Girls	72.7 (±3.1)	63.2 (±6.8)	73.8 (±14.4)	8.1 (±1.3)	37.6 (±15.7)	10.8 (±12.4)	27.3 (±18.3)

Three-fourth of students (74.1%) saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days. Six in ten of never smokers (63.5%) and eight in ten current smokers (76.3%) saw pro-tobacco messages in newspapers and magazines during the past 30 days. One in ten of both never smokers (10.8%) and current smokers (14.7%) had an object with a cigarette brand logo on it with significant between male and female current smokers. One in ten of both never smokers (11.8%) and current smokers (14.3%) were offered free cigarettes by tobacco company representative.

### 7. Access and availability

**Table 13: Access and Availability, Oman GYTS, 2003.**

Category	Percent Current Smokers who Usually Smoke at Home	Percent Current Smokers who Purchased Cigarettes in a Store	Percent Current Smokers Who Bought Cigarettes in a Store Who Were Not Refused Because of Their Age
Total	12.3 (±7.2)	42.6 (±18.0)	85.6 (±13.3)
Boys	8.4 (±7.0)	46.2 (±19.1)	84.8 (±14.3)
Girls	53.2 (±25.3)	4.6 (±9.0)	100.0 (±0.0) *

\*The number of respondents (n) in this cell is less than 35

One in ten of current smokers (12.3%) usually smoke at home. Six times as many female current smokers smoke at home compared to male current smokers (53.2% and 8.4% respectively). Less than half of current smokers (42.6%) purchase cigarettes in a store. Nine times as many male current smokers purchase cigarettes in a store. Nine in ten of current smokers (85.6%) had not been refused purchase because of their age.