

Tobacco control in Hungary

Legislation

Media

The direct advertising of tobacco products is completely banned in national and cable TV-s, national radio, cinemas, local magazines and newspapers, billboards and outdoor walls (there is no restriction for the international newspapers, points of sale and kiosks). There is no restriction for product placement TV and films (indirect advertising).

Accessibility and Distribution of tobacco products

There are no restrictions for self-service displays, sales of duty free tobacco products, and there is a complete ban for sale of single or unpacked cigarettes, vending machines, and distribution of free samples of cigarettes. Selling of tobacco products to minors (below age of 18) is completely banned.

Smoke free areas in public places

There is a total smoking ban in civic public transport and international air transport, in indoor workplaces and offices. Smoking is not permitted except in designated areas in health care, educational and governmental facilities, trains and water transport, theatres, cinemas, restaurants, pubs and bars.

Policy and Interventions

National tobacco action plan, specific targets on tobacco in government policy, interventions to prevent initiation of tobacco use and to protect non-smokers, NGO's active in tobacco control, celebration of annual World No Tobacco Day exist, and there is national coordinating body for tobacco control. The government has recently accepted a ten-year public health program, "Béla Johan National Program for the Decade of Health", one important program of which, is the Tobacco Control Program, which focuses mainly on prevention in kindergartens and elementary schools.

There are many various facilities that support smoking cessation: consulting hours in 130 settlements where patients can get professional advice and help, several cessation clinics and help lines, etc. Pharmacotherapies for cessation are available and also price-incentive and reduced cost for treatment.

The Global Youth Tobacco Survey – objectives and goals

In 1998 the WHO in collaboration with the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and UNICEF, began a project called Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) to enhance tobacco surveillance to young people. So far the survey has been completed in over 97 countries including six European in the WHO European region and Hungary with other 6 countries from the Central-Eastern European region joined to the Survey in the last year.

The GYTS provides a mechanism by which countries can monitor tobacco use among 13-15 year old young people and guide the implementation and evaluation of tobacco prevention and control programmes. It aims to understand and assess students' attitudes, knowledge and behaviours related to tobacco use and its health impact, including:

cessation, environmental tobacco smoke, media and advertising, minors' access and school curriculum.

The GYTS will attempt to address the following issues:

- Determine the level of tobacco use
- Estimate the age of initiation of cigarette use
- Estimate levels of susceptibility to become cigarette smokers
- Exposure to tobacco advertising
- Identify key intervening variables, such as attitudes and beliefs on behavioural norms with regard to tobacco use among young people which can be used in prevention programmes
- Assess the extent to which major prevention programmes are reaching school based populations and establish the subjective opinions of those populations regarding such interventions.

Methods

Sampling

The 2003 Hungary GYTS was a school-based survey with a two-stage cluster sample design to produce a nationally representative sample in seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth grades (i.e. grades which contain most of the students aged between 13 and 15).

The first-stage sampling frame consisted of all schools containing seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth grades. Schools were selected with probability proportional to school enrolment size.

The second sampling stage consisted of systematic equal probability sampling (with a random start) of classes from each school that participated in the survey. All classes in the selected schools were included in the sampling frame. All students in the selected classes were eligible to participate in the survey.

There was a regional stratification for sampling as well: 20 schools were selected both from Budapest (1597 students) and from other urban region (1896 students), and 27 schools were selected from the rural region (1647 students). Altogether 5140 students were sampled from 67 schools. Overall response rates can be seen in the table below:

	All schools	Budapest	Other Urban	Rural
Schools (%)	98.5%	95.0%	100.0 %	100.0 %
Schools (N)	66	19	20	27
Students (%)	87.2%	86.7%	86.4%	88.8%
Students (N)	4484	1384	1638	1462

Weighting

A weight has been associated with each record to reflect the likelihood of sampling each student and to reduce bias by compensating for different patterns of nonresponse. The weight used for estimation is given by: