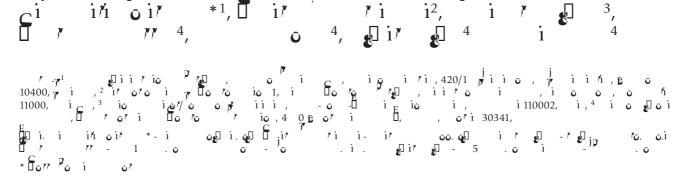
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Prevalence of smoking and other smoking-related behaviors reported by the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) in Thailand



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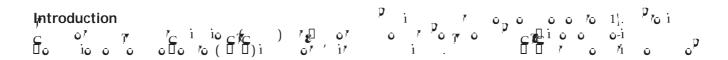
Abstract

Introduction: Thailand ratified the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) on November 8, 2004. The WHO FCTC requires all parties to inform all persons of the health consequences of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke. Each party has agreed to develop, implement and evaluate effective tobacco control programs to measure progress in reaching the goals of the WHO FCTC.

Methods: The Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) was developed to provide data on youth tobacco use to countries for their development of youth-based tobacco control programs. Data in this report can be used as baseline measures for future evaluation of the tobacco control programs implemented by the Ministry of Public Health.

Results: Overall, about 1 in 10 Thai students are current smokers, this number including 4 times more boys than girls (17% versus 3.9%). Almost 2 in 10 Thai students start smoking before the age of 10, and almost 7 in 10 students are reported to have been exposed to smoke from others in public places. About 4 in 10 students are reported to have an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.

Conclusion: The key for Thailand is to implement and enforce the provisions on indirect tobacco advertising, smoking in public places, selling tobacco to youths under 18 years of age, and to use the data from the GYTS to monitor progress toward achieving the goals of the WHO FCTC. When these goals are met, tobacco consumption and exposure in Thailand will have declined substantially.





Methods

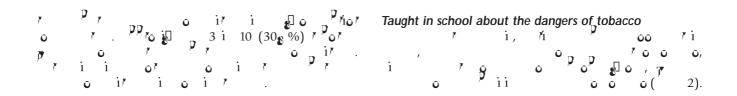
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Table 1: Prevalence of smoking and other smoking-related behaviors, susceptibility to initiate smoking among students who had never smoked, and motivation to quit smoking among current smokers, Thailand GYTS, 2005

	Prevalence % (95% CI)				
Students who:	Total	Male	Female		
Ever smoked cigarettes	23.8 (21.9-26.0) (n = 14,639)	36.4 (33.9-39.0) (n = 7,198)	12.5 (10.7-14.5) (n = 7,274)		
Smoked first cigarette before age 10 years (among smokers)	18.4 (16.6-20.3) (n = 3,086)	17.4 (15.3-19.7) (n = 2,343)	19.8 (16.5-23.5) (n = 683)		
Were current cigarette smokers	10.1 (9.0-11.4) (n = 14,327)	17.0 (15.1-19.1) $(n = 6,948)$	3.9 (3.3-4.7) (n = 7,218)		
Were current users of tobacco products other than cigarettes	7.1 (6.4-7.9) (n = 14,706)	9.6 (8.5-10.7) (n = 7,254)	4.7 (4.1-5.3) (n = 7,288)		
Were susceptible to initiate smoking in the next year (among never smokers)	6.7 (6.1-7.3) (n = 11,034)	9.0 (8.0-10.2) (n = 4,568)	5.2 (4.4-6.1) (n = 6,378)		



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Discussion

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