

## Results

For the 1999 Venezuela GYTS, 3779 questionnaires were completed in 96 schools. The school response rate was 93.2%, and the student response rate was 99.7%.

Table 1 presents basic demographic characteristics of the sample by grade, school classification and gender. There were 3650 valid questionnaires (96.6%), 55.7% of the responders were female.

Table 2 presents the prevalence of tobacco use by gender, grade and school classification. An estimated 2 in 10 students have ever smoked cigarettes, with male students more likely than female students to have ever smoked. The Prevalence of students who ever smoked cigarettes increases with grade. Students in private schools are more likely to ever smoke or being current cigarette smokers than the rest of the students. Overall, 6.8% of students smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days, with female students more likely than male students to be currently smokers (7.0% vs. 6.1%, respectively). Almost 1 in 10 students used some form of tobacco other than cigarettes in the past 30 days. Chimó consumption is more prevalent in males 7.8% than in females 3.5%, students at public schools Grade 6 are more likely to be Chimó consumers than the rest. Fourteen percent of students currently use some type of tobacco product. Current use of any tobacco product increases by grade, with nearly one-fourth of students in grade 9 currently users.

Table 3 presents prevalence of selected activities related to access to tobacco products among Venezuelan students. An estimated 5 in 10 students purchase their cigarettes from stores, shops or from street vendor. The prevalence of this characteristic increases with the students grade. Their age was not considered a problem by 75% of the students when buying cigarettes. For 5 in 10 students it is possible to buy cigarettes by the unit in their area of residency. Smokers were exposed more to free cigarette from a sales representative than never smokers. About 5 in 10 chimó consumers purchase the product on stores. Shops or from street vendors.

Table 4 presents the students preference for a place to smoke among Venezuelan students. An estimated 3 in 10 female smoker students smoke at home, with male smoker students significantly less likely than female students to choose home for smoke. Friend's home are the second most common place to smoke followed by public places, social events and the least preferred place was the school.

Table 5 presents the prevalence of attitudes concerning tobacco addition and cessation among Venezuelan students who are current smokers. An estimated 7 in 100 smoker students need to have a cigarette first thing in the morning., with male smoker students significantly more likely than female students to have a cigarette first thing in the morning (8% versus 4%). Smoker students in rural areas are more likely to have cigarettes first thing in the morning, and not to think that smoking is harmful to health. Almost every smoker think that they could quit smoking if they wanted, but 1 in 3 smoker students affirm that quitting smoking is difficult. Seven out of every 10 female smokers had tried to quit smoking in the past year, that is more that the same for males (6 in 10).

Table 6 presents the prevalence of knowledge and attitudes concerning health effect of tobacco among Venezuelan students. About 7 out of 10 smokers and 8 in 10 never smokers believe smoking is harmful for health. This belief clearly increases with grade for never smokers, however, this characteristic is also observed among current smokers. More Grade 9th never smoker students (9 in 10) think that smoking is harmful for health than current smokers (76.7%). Among students at urban private schools, more never smokers (9 in 10) think that smoking is harmful for health than current smokers (77 %). Over all, 5 in 10 students definitely think that it is OK to smoke for only 1 or 2 years as long as you quit after that. An estimated 6 in 10 students definitely think that smoke from other people's cigarettes is harmful to you.

Table 7 presents the prevalence of selected issues concerning mass media and advertising about tobacco among Venezuelan students. An estimated 5 in 100 students have never seen an actor smoking on TV, videos or movies, characteristic that decreases as grade increases. More current smoker students has something with a cigarette brand logo on it (3 in 10) than never smokers (1 in 10). About 20% of the students had not seen cigarette advertisements in news papers and magazines during the past 30 days. Only two in 10 students have never seen cigarette advertisements at sporting events, fairs, etc.

Table 8 presents the prevalence of issues related to social influences (family, friendship, love) and tobacco use among Venezuelan students. More smoking students (6 in 10 students) have smoking parents than never smokers (4 in 10 students). This situation is more evident in female students than in male (6 in 10 versus 4 in 10 for female students). Smokers are significantly more likely to accept cigarettes from friends than never smokers. In general, smokers are more likely to have his/hers best friend smoker than never smokers.