

Mauritius (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



The Mauritius 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, exposure to secondhand smoke (SHS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Mauritius could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Mauritius GYTS was a school-based survey of students in Form II, Form III, and Form IV conducted in 2008.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for Mauritius. 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 96.0%, the student response rate was 82.5% and the overall response rate was 79.2%. A total of 1,286 students aged 13-15 participated in the Mauritius GYTS.

Prevalence

28.4% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 37.7%, Girls = 19.9%)
13.7% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 20.3%, Girls = 7.7%)
11.2% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

36.3% think boys and 13.6% think girls who smoke have more friends
12.2% think boys and 6.5% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

22.3% usually smoke at home
51.8% buy cigarettes in a store
60.0% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

36.1% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
73.6% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
74.5% think smoking should be banned from public places
72.6% think smoke from others is harmful to them
39.9% have one or more parents who smoke
12.0% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

62.3% want to stop smoking
58.5% tried to stop smoking during the past year
76.1% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

84.9% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
51.4% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
8.4% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

62.9% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
36.6% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
63.8% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 13.7% of students currently smoke cigarettes; 11.2% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year
- SHS exposure is high – over one-third of students live in homes where others smoke, about three-fourths of students are around others who smoke in places outside of their home; nearly 4 in 10 students have one or more parent who smoke.
- More than 7 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Three-fourths of students think smoking should be banned from public places.
- About 6 in 10 students who are currently smoking indicated that they want to stop smoking now.
- More than 8 in 10 students saw anti-smoking messages in the past 30 days.