

Mauritania (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



The Mauritania 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 Mauritania could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Mauritania GYTS was a school-based survey of students in 1ere, 2eme, and 3eme Annee, conducted in 2001.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Mauritania. 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 88.5%, the class response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 85.2%, and the overall response rate was 75.4%. A total of 1,644 students aged 13-15 years participated in the Mauritania GYTS.

Prevalence

27.6% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 34.0%, Girls = 20.4%)
 24.7% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 28.6%, Girls = 19.5%)
 14.8% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 19.8%, Girls = 8.8%)
 14.9% currently use other tobacco products (Boys = 15.8%, Girls = 13.4%)
 14.2% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

40.1% think boys and 37.5% think girls who smoke have more friends
 33.1% think boys and 28.0% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

27.5% usually smoke at home
 49.3% buy cigarettes in a store
 72.7% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

46.3% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 53.8% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 61.9% think smoking should be banned from public places
 49.7% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 26.2% have one or more parents who smoke
 12.2% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

76.0% want to stop smoking
 77.1% tried to stop smoking during the past year

Media and Advertising

76.6% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
 73.5% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
 63.6% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
 24.8% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
 16.3% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

46.8% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
 34.8% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
 48.5% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- Nearly one-quarter of students currently use any form of tobacco; 14.8% currently smoke cigarettes; 14.9% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- SHS exposure is high – almost half of students live in homes where others smoke in their presence; over half are exposed to smoke in public places; over one-quarter have one or more parents who smoke.
- Half of students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- More than 6 in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- More than three-quarters of smokers want to quit.
- One in 4 students has an object with a cigarette brand logo on it.
- Over three-quarters of the students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; nearly 7 in 10 students saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards and in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days.