

# 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.