

Mauritius – Rodrigues Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) FACT SHEET



The Mauritius – Rodrigues 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, environmental tobacco smoke exposure (ETS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Mauritius could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program. The Mauritius-Rodrigues GYTS was a school-based survey of students in Form II, III, and IV, conducted in 2003.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for Mauritius – Rodrigues. 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 100%, the student response rate was 87.0%, and the overall response rate was 87.0%. A total of 769 students participated in the Mauritius - Rodrigues GYTS.

Prevalence

54.5% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 63.1%, Girl = 47.0%)
19.7% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 26.6%, Girl = 13.6%)
10.8% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

41.4% think boys and 21.4% think girls who smoke have more friends
11.9% think boys and 9.1% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

21.2% usually smoke at home
33.5% buy cigarettes in a store

* who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Environmental Tobacco Smoke

43.1% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
65.7% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
83.6% think smoking should be banned from public places
79.5% think smoke from others is harmful to them
43.0% have one or more parents who smoke
18.2% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

65.6% want to stop smoking
67.7% tried to stop smoking during the past year
75.7% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

71.2% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
38.4% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
10.5% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

57.0% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
42.1% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
55.1% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- Over half of the students have ever smoked a cigarette; 20% currently smoke cigarettes.
- ETS exposure is high – Approximately 2 in 5 students live in homes where others smoke in their presence; over 6 in 10 are exposed to smoke in public places; 2 out of 5 have parents who smoke.
- Approximately 80% of the students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Over 80% of the students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Over 3 out of 5 students who currently smoke indicated that they want to stop smoking now.
- 7 in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; while approximately 4 in 10 students saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers and magazines in the past 30 days.

* Indicates a cell size of less than 35.