

Mauritania

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, environmental tobacco smoke exposure (ETS), 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 6ème AF, 1ère AS, 2ère AS, and 3ère AS conducted in 2006.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for 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 94.3%, the student response rate was 88.3%, and the overall response rate was 83.3%. A total of 3,771 students participated in the Mauritania GYTS.

Prevalence

- 30.0% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Male = 34.0%, Female = 24.4%)
- 33.1% currently use any tobacco product (Male = 36.2%, Female = 29.2%)
- 19.9% currently smoke cigarettes (Male = 21.9%, Female = 16.9%)
- 20.7% currently use other tobacco products (Male = 22.7%, Female = 18.3%)
- 22.9% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

- 44.9% think boys and 35.1% think girls who smoke have more friends
- 39.0% think boys and 32.1% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

- 25.7% usually smoke at home
- 38.0% buy cigarettes in a store
- 65.6% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Environmental Tobacco Smoke

- 43.8% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
- 51.9% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
- 55.9% think smoking should be banned from public places
- 31.2% think smoke from others is harmful to them
- 27.0% have one or more parents who smoke
- 13.9% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

- 74.8% want to stop smoking
- 79.3% tried to stop smoking during the past year

Media and Advertising

- 74.9% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
- 71.3% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
- 66.0% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
- 30.8% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
- 25.7% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

- 40.8% 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
- 38.3% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- One third of the students currently use any form of tobacco; one fifth currently smoke cigarettes; one fifth currently use some other form of tobacco.
- ETS exposure is high – 4 out of 10 students live in homes where others smoke, while over half of the students are around others who smoke in places outside of their home; over one quarter of the students have one or more parent who smoke.
- Approximately one third of the students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Over half of the students think smoking should be banned from public places.
- Approximately three quarters of the students who are currently smoking indicated that they want to stop smoking now; almost 8 in 10 students currently smoking tried to stop during the past year.
- Almost three quarters of the students saw anti-smoking messages while 7 in 10 saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, and two thirds of the students saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers & magazines.