

Mauritius – Rodrigues (Ages 13-15)

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, exposure to secondhand smoke (SHS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Mauritius - Rodrigues 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, and 1st to 5th year

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 class response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 87%, and the overall response rate was 87%. A total of 646 students aged 13-15 participated in the Mauritius - Rodrigues GYTS.

Prevalence

52.3% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 60.5%, Girl = 45.8%)
 17.6% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 23.3%, Girl = 13.2%)
 10.9% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

41.6% think boys and 20.8% think girls who smoke have more friends
 11.9% think boys and 8.3% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

22.1% usually smoke at home
 30.3% buy cigarettes in a store

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

42.5% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 64.8% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 83.8% think smoking should be banned from public places
 80.5% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 42.5% have one or more parents who smoke
 16.5% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

62.2% want to stop smoking
 70.6% tried to stop smoking during the past year
 74.5% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

72.7% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
 38.7% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
 8.9% 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; 17.6% currently smoke cigarettes.
- SHS exposure is high – over 4 in 10 students live in homes where others smoke in their presence; Close to two-thirds are exposed to smoke in public places; more than 4 in 10 have one or more parents who smoke.
- Eight in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- More than 8 in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Almost two-thirds of the students who currently smoke indicated that they want to stop smoking now.
- Nearly three-quarters of the students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; while over one-third of the students saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days.