GYTS Objectives

The Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS), a component of the Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS), is a global standard for systematically monitoring youth tobacco use (smoking and smokeless) and tracking key tobacco control indicators. GYTS is a cross-sectional, nationally representative school-based survey of students in grades associated with ages 13 to 15 years. GYTS uses a standard core questionnaire, sample design, and data collection protocol. It assists countries in fulfilling their obligations under the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) to generate comparable data within and across countries. WHO has developed MPOWER, a technical package of selected demand reduction measures contained in the WHO FCTC:

GYTS Methodology

GYTS uses a global standardized methodology that includes a two-stage sample design with schools selected with a probability proportional to enrollment size. The classes within selected schools are chosen randomly and all students in selected classes are eligible to participate in the survey. The survey uses a standard core questionnaire with a set of optional questions that countries can adapt to measure and track key tobacco control indicators. The questionnaire covers the following topics: tobacco use (smoking and smokeless), cessation, secondhand smoke (SHS), pro- and anti-tobacco media and advertising, access to and availability of tobacco products, and knowledge and attitudes regarding tobacco use. The questionnaire is self-administered; using scannable paper-based bubble sheets, it is anonymous to ensure confidentiality.

In Mauritania, GYTS was conducted in 2018 by the Ministere De La Sante. The overall response rate was 91.3%. A total of 3,740 eligible students in grades 1ère Année secondaire, 2ème Année secondaire, 3ème Année secondaire, and 4ème Année secondaire completed the survey, of which 2,941 were aged 13-15 years. Data are reported for students aged 13-15 years.

GYTS Highlights

| Tobacco Use | • 19.8% of students, 19.6% of boys, and 19.2% of girls currently used any tobacco products. |
| Electronic Cigarettes | • 18.8% of students, 18.1% of boys, and 18.5% of girls currently used electronic cigarettes. |
| Cessation | • Almost 5 in 10 (49.3%) current tobacco smokers tried to stop smoking in the past 12 months. |
| • Almost 8 in 10 (76.6%) current tobacco smokers wanted to stop smoking now. |
| Secondhand Smoke | • 42.4% of students were exposed to tobacco smoke at home. |
| • 44.4% of students were exposed to tobacco smoke inside enclosed public places. |
| Access & Availability | • 72.5% of current cigarette smokers bought cigarettes from a shop, street vendor, boutique, or kiosk. |
| • Among current cigarette smokers who tried to buy cigarettes, 59.5% were not prevented from buying them because of their age. |
| Media | • Almost 6 in 10 (58.6%) students noticed anti-tobacco messages in the media. |
| • Almost 4 in 10 (37.1%) students noticed tobacco advertisements or promotions when visiting points of sale. |
| • Almost 2 in 10 (17.5%) students had something with a tobacco brand logo on it. |
| Knowledge & Attitudes | • 47.7% of students definitely thought other people’s tobacco smoking is harmful to them. |
| • 53.9% of students favored prohibiting smoking inside enclosed public places. |
Tobacco Use

Smoked Tobacco

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Overall (%)</th>
<th>Boys (%)</th>
<th>Girls (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current tobacco smokers¹</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>16.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current cigarette smokers²</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequent cigarette smokers³</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current smokers of other tobacco⁴</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever tobacco smokers⁵</td>
<td>26.1</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>21.7*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever cigarette smokers⁶</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>15.7*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever smokers of other tobacco⁷</td>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Smokeless Tobacco

Current smokeless tobacco users⁸                  | 6.8         | 6.5      | 6.8       |
Ever smokeless tobacco users⁹                     | 12.6        | 12.5     | 12.4      |

Any Tobacco Use (smoked and/or smokeless)

Current tobacco users¹⁰                          | 19.8        | 19.6     | 19.2      |
Ever tobacco users¹¹                             | 31.4        | 34.6     | 27.4*     |

Susceptibility

Never tobacco users susceptible to tobacco use in the future¹² | 34.8        | 36.9     | 32.6      |
Never tobacco smokers who thought they might enjoy smoking a cigarette¹³ | 12.2        | 13.5     | 10.9      |

Electronic Cigarettes

Current electronic cigarette users¹⁴              | 18.8        | 18.1     | 18.5      |

Cessation

Current tobacco smokers who tried to stop smoking in the past 12 months | 49.3        | 59.8     | 34.2      |
Current tobacco smokers who wanted to stop smoking now                          | 76.6        | 75.8     | 76.6      |
Current tobacco smokers who thought they would be able to stop smoking if they wanted to | 59.9        | 57.5     | 62.8      |
Current tobacco smokers who have ever received help/advice from a program or professional to stop smoking | 38.4        | 38.4     | 37.7      |

Secondhand Smoke

Exposure to tobacco smoke at home¹⁵               | 42.4        | 41.2     | 43.0      |
Exposure to tobacco smoke inside any enclosed public place¹⁵                     | 44.4        | 43.1     | 45.8      |
Exposure to tobacco smoke at any outdoor public place¹⁵                          | 48.8        | 48.2     | 49.0      |
Students who saw anyone smoking inside the school building or outside on school property¹⁶ | 59.1        | 59.0     | 59.1      |

Access & Availability

Current cigarette smokers who bought cigarettes from a shop, street vendor, boutique, or kiosk¹⁷ | 72.5        | 72.5     | 72.8      |
Current cigarette smokers who were not prevented from buying cigarettes because of their age¹⁸ | 59.5        | 63.9     | 56.6      |
Current cigarette smokers who bought cigarettes as individual sticks¹⁹ | 42.3        | 49.6     | 36.6      |

Media

Tobacco Advertising

Students who noticed tobacco advertisements or promotions at points of sale²⁰ | 37.1        | 38.0     | 35.7      |
Students who saw anyone using tobacco on television, videos, or movies²¹         | 62.7        | 63.8     | 61.6      |
Students who were ever offered a free tobacco product from a tobacco company representative | 17.8        | 19.3     | 15.6      |
Students who had something with a tobacco brand logo on it                        | 17.5        | 16.9     | 17.7      |

Anti-Tobacco Advertising

Students who noticed anti-tobacco messages in the media²²                      | 58.6        | 56.2     | 61.1      |
Students who noticed anti-tobacco messages at sporting or community events²³ | 42.6        | 43.1     | 41.5      |
Current cigarette smokers who thought about quitting because of a warning label²⁴ | 40.1        | 35.6     | 45.1      |
Students who were taught in school about the dangers of tobacco use in the past 12 months | 34.4        | 35.5     | 33.3      |

Knowledge & Attitudes

Students who definitely thought it is difficult to quit once someone starts smoking tobacco | 13.9        | 13.7     | 14.2      |
Students who thought smoking tobacco helps people feel more comfortable at celebrations, parties, and social gatherings | 21.2        | 23.4     | 19.2      |
Students who definitely thought other people's tobacco smoking is harmful to them | 47.7        | 45.5     | 50.4      |
Students who favored prohibiting smoking inside enclosed public places           | 53.9        | 53.6     | 54.4      |
Students who favored prohibiting smoking at outdoor public places                | 56.3        | 56.5     | 56.1      |

¹ Smoked cigarettes or other type of tobacco anytime during the past 30 days.
² Smoked cigarettes anytime during the past 12 months.
³ Smoked cigarettes on 20 or more days of the past 30 days.
⁴ Smoked tobacco other than cigarettes anytime during the past 30 days.
⁵ Ever smoked cigarettes or other type of tobacco, even one or two puffs.
⁶ Ever smoked cigarettes, even one or two puffs.
⁷ Ever smoked tobacco other than cigarettes, even one or two puffs.
⁸ Ever smoked smokeless tobacco anytime during the past 30 days.
⁹ Ever smoked smokeless tobacco.
¹⁰ Ever smoked cigarettes, other type of tobacco, and/or used smokeless tobacco anytime during the past 30 days.
¹¹ Ever smoked cigarettes and/or used smokeless tobacco.
¹² Susceptible to future tobacco use includes those who answered “definitely yes”, “probably yes”, or “probably not” to using tobacco if one of their best friends offered it to them, or “definitely yes”, “probably yes”, or “probably not” to using tobacco during the next 12 months.
¹³ Those who answered “Agree” or “Strongly Agree” to the statement: “I think I might enjoy smoking a cigarette.”
¹⁴ Used electronic cigarettes anytime during the past 30 days.
¹⁵ Used electronic cigarettes assessed separately from cigarettes, other smoked tobacco products, and smokeless tobacco products and is not included in the current definition of current any tobacco use.
¹⁶ Students who answered “definitely yes”, “probably yes”, or “probably not” to using tobacco if one of their best friends offered it to them, or “definitely yes”, “probably yes”, or “probably not” to using tobacco during the next 12 months.
¹⁷ Among those who were ever offered a free tobacco product from a tobacco company representative.
¹⁸ Among those who visited a point of sale in the past 30 days.
¹⁹ Among those who watched television, videos, or movies in the past 30 days.
²⁰ Among those who attended sporting or community events in the past 30 days.
²¹ Among those who noticed anti-tobacco messages at sporting or community events.
²² Among those who were ever offered a free tobacco product from a tobacco company representative.
²³ Among those who noticed anti-tobacco messages at sporting or community events.
²⁴ Among those who definitely thought it is difficult to quit once someone starts smoking tobacco.
²⁵ Among those who watched television, videos, or movies in the past 30 days.
²⁶ Among those who attended sporting or community events.
²⁷ Among those who noticed warning labels on cigarette packages in the past 30 days.
²⁸ Among those who watched television, videos, or movies.
²⁹ Among those who attended sporting or community events.
³⁰ Among those who were ever offered a free tobacco product from a tobacco company representative.

NOTE: Data are weighted to be nationally representative of all students aged 13-15 years who are enrolled in school. Percentages reflect the prevalence of each indicator in each group, not the distribution across groups.

*Gender comparisons are significant at p < 0.05.