CONGO
Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)
Fact Sheet (Ages 13-15)

The Congo 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 Congo could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Congo GYTS was a school-based survey of students in 6ème, 5ème, 4ème, and 3ème conducted in 2009.

Prevalence
15.6% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 19.2%, Girl = 11.2%)
16.6% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 17.3%, Girl = 15.3%)
5.5% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 6.6%, Girl = 4.0%)
13.9% currently use other tobacco products (Boy = 13.8%, Girl = 13.5%)
6.7% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)
22.3% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
44.4% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
78.6% think smoking should be banned from public places
44.2% think smoke from others is harmful to them
13.4% have one or more parents who smoke
6.9% have most or all friends who smoke

Knowledge and Attitudes
35.7% think boys and 24.5% think girls who smoke have more friends
24.6% think boys and 28.8% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers
43.7% usually smoke at home
37.7% buy cigarettes in a store

Cessation - Current Smokers
88.7% want to stop smoking
78.4% tried to stop smoking during the past year

Media and Advertising
58.0% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
41.1% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days
32.8% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
13.5% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
7.9% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School
41.5% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
19.3% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
30.9% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

HIGHLIGHTS
• 24.3% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 8.2% currently smoke cigarettes; 20.0% currently use some other form of tobacco.
• SHS exposure is moderate – nearly one-quarter of the students live in homes where others smoke, and two in five students are exposed to smoke around others outside of the home; One in 10 students have at least one parent who smokes.
• Nearly half of the students think smoke from others is harmful to them.

For additional information, please contact: Patrick Elvisse • E-mail: tsibaegombo@yahoo.fr