

## **SUMMARY**

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) was developed by WHO and the US CDC to track tobacco use among youths in countries across the world. It is a school-based survey designed to use a two-stage cluster sample to produce representative data on smoking among school-age children 13 – 15 years old. GYTS was implemented in Guyana in 2000. Data collected include the prevalence of cigarette smoking and other tobacco use, access and price of tobacco, environmental tobacco smoke exposure, cessation, media and advertising and the school curriculum.

The school response rate was 86.0% and the student response rate was 72.1%. This gave an overall response rate of 62.0%.

Prevalence rate of ever smokers is about 30%, with 9% current smokers and about 17% who currently use any tobacco product.

About 28% students buy their cigarettes in a store and about 53% of them smoke at home. More boys than girls smoke cigarettes and as much as 8 in 10 smokers want to stop.

Many students are exposed to tobacco smoke in their homes and in places outside their homes. About 70% thought that tobacco smoke from others is harmful to them and they want smoking to be banned in public places.

Students were exposed to both anti- and pro-smoking media messages, and some even had objects with cigarette brand logos.

Less than 50% students in class were taught about the dangers of smoking, why people their age smoke and the effects of tobacco use.

Tobacco control legislation is needed to ban smoking in public places. An effective school curriculum is also necessary to enhance youth cessation programme and tobacco use prevention.