

10 Daily Smoking: Age of Initiation

Tobacco use starts and is established mainly during adolescence.^{23,24} The majority of cigarette smokers start smoking before age 18.^{23,24}

Among adults aged 20 to 34 who have ever smoked, the average age of smoking initiation ranged from 17.2 years in Senegal to 18.8 years in Kenya in the 6 GATS countries in the African Region.

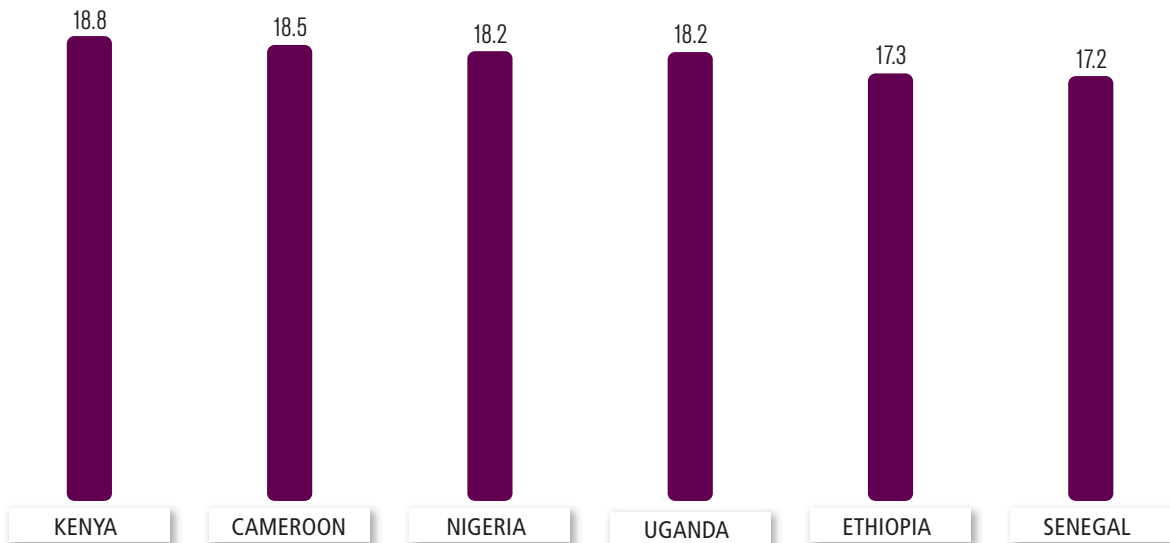
Thirty percent or more of students who have ever smoked cigarettes first tried a cigarette before they were 10 years old in 19 of the 34 GYTS countries. Percentages ranged from 14% in Seychelles to 60% in Malawi.



AVERAGE AGE AT WHICH ADULTS STARTED SMOKING

Average age of initiation of daily smoking among adults age 20–34 who were ever daily smokers 2012–17

The average age of daily tobacco smoking initiation in the 6 GATS countries was under 19 years



30% or more of students who have ever smoked cigarettes first tried a cigarette before they were 10 years old in 19 GYTS countries



EARLY SMOKING INITIATION

Percentage of students age 13–15 who have ever smoked cigarettes and first tried a cigarette before age 10 2006–11 2013–16*

