

12 Exposure to Smoke: Public Places

No level of secondhand smoke exposure is safe.^{24,27-29} Comprehensive smoke-free laws reduce exposure to secondhand smoke, prevent youth initiation and help smokers quit.³⁰⁻³⁴ These strategies also influence social norms regarding smoking in public places, and have been shown to reduce heart attack and asthma hospitalizations among nonsmokers.^{24,33,35}

About 33 million adults were exposed to secondhand smoke in public places in the 6 GATS countries. Percentages were highest in restaurants and lowest in health care facilities. For adults, data on secondhand smoke exposure are presented for four major locations: government buildings, health care facilities, restaurants, and public transportation.

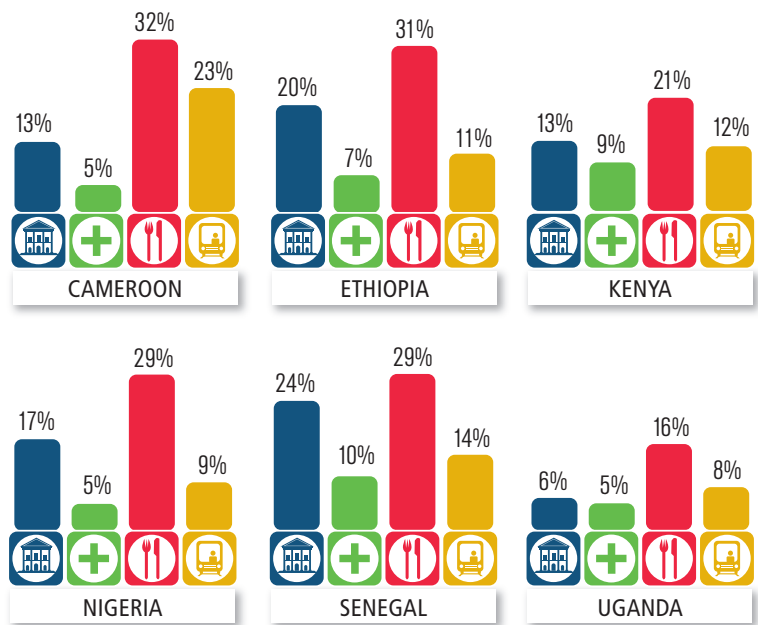
Forty percent or more of students were exposed to secondhand smoke in public places in 25 of the 33 GYTS countries presented here. Percentages ranged from 25% in Cape Verde to 81% in Mali.



ADULT EXPOSURE

Percentage of adults age 15 years or older who visited and were exposed to secondhand smoke in public places in the past 30 days

- government buildings
- health care facilities
- restaurants
- public transportation



40% or more
of students were exposed to
secondhand smoke in public
places in 25 GYTS countries



STUDENT EXPOSURE

Percentage of students age 13–15 who were exposed to secondhand smoke in public places in the past 7 days^{b,d,e}
2006–11
2013–16*

