



Tobacco Use and Exposure to Second-hand Smoke among Students in Cambodia: Global Youth Tobacco Survey, 2003 and 2016

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Keywords: Cambodia, GYTS, Secondhand smoke, Tobacco use, Students

Introduction

Cambodia has introduced a number of tobacco control measures to address the tobacco epidemic since 2000. As a part of these efforts, Cambodia conducted three rounds of the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) in 2003, 2010, and 2016 to gather comprehensive information on tobacco use and key tobacco control indicators.

Methods

GYTS in Cambodia is a nationally representative school-based survey of students aged 13-15 years. GYTS data from 2003 and 2016 were used to examine differences in current tobacco use among students who used any smoking or smokeless tobacco in the past 30 days. Also, a secondhand smoke (SHS) exposure among all students who were exposed to SHS in homes and in enclosed public places in the past 7 by gender. Sample sizes were 752 in 2003 and 1,866 in 2016. Overall response rates were 87.4% in 2003 and 81.0% in 2016. Data analysis was conducted with SUDAAN to account for the complex sampling design; statistically significant differences ($p < 0.05$) were determined using a two-sample z-test.

Results

Overall prevalence of current tobacco use decreased significantly, by about half, from 5.1% in 2003 to 2.4% in 2016 (from 7.2% to 2.9% among boys; from 3.0% to 1.9% among girls). In homes, exposure to SHS decreased significantly from 47.0% in 2003 to 31.5% in 2016 (from 48.9% to 24.8% among boys; from 44.5% to 23.7% among girls). In enclosed public places, exposure to SHS decreased significantly from 58.5% in 2003 to 44.5% in 2016 (from 60.6% to 45.5% among boys; from 56.5% to 43.5% among girls).

Conclusion

Between 2003 and 2016, significant decreases occurred among Cambodian students in both current tobacco use and past 7 days SHS exposure in homes and enclosed public places. Comprehensive, evidence-based tobacco control interventions can help further reduce tobacco use and exposure to SHS in Cambodia.