

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of School-Going Adolescents Included in the Cross-Sectional Secondary Analysis of the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) Conducted in 45 African Countries, 2001–2021 (n = 439,322).

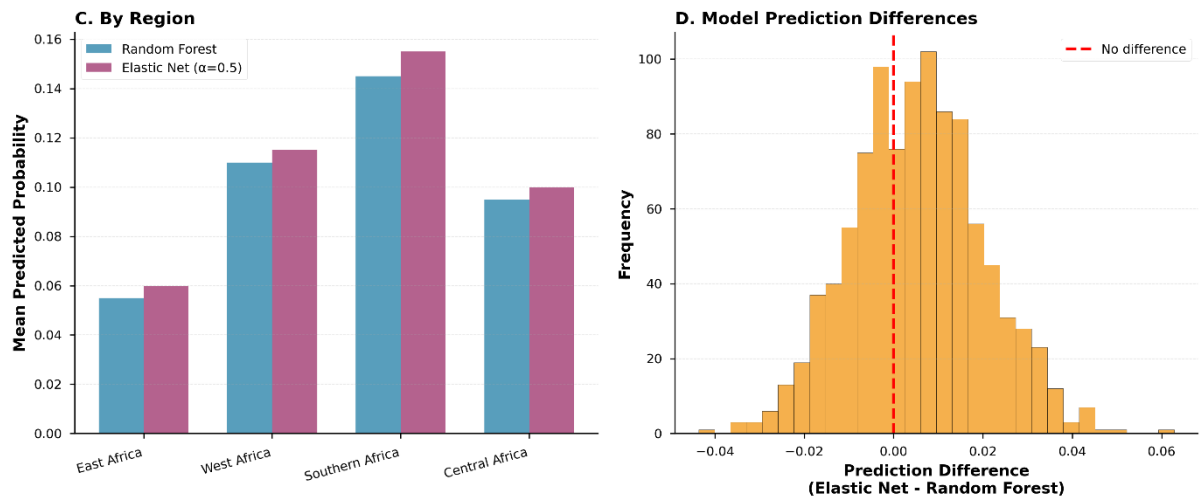
Characteristics (n = 439,322)	n (%)
Country	
Algeria	13714 (3.1%)
Angola	1576 (0.4%)
Benin	4329 (1.0%)
Botswana	4127 (0.9%)
Burkina Faso	11081 (2.5%)
Burundi	2521 (0.6%)
Cameroon	15599 (3.6%)
Cape Verde	2019 (0.5%)
Central African Republic	2027 (0.5%)
Chad	5333 (1.2%)
Comoros	4620 (1.1%)
Congo	3109 (0.7%)
Democratic Republic of Congo	12717 (2.9%)
Equatorial Guinea	3136 (0.7%)
Eritrea	9639 (2.2%)
Ethiopia	1868 (0.4%)
Gabon	1781 (0.4%)
Gambia	14544 (3.3%)
Ghana	23949 (5.5%)
Guinea	5038 (1.1%)
Ivory Coast	10152 (2.3%)
Kenya	17411 (4.0%)
Lesotho	7573 (1.7%)
Liberia	1739 (0.4%)
Madagascar	4911 (1.1%)

Malawi	7617 (1.7%)
Mali	6227 (1.4%)
Mauritania	15740 (3.6%)
Mauritius	7812 (1.8%)
Mozambique	13642 (3.1%)
Namibia	8642 (2.0%)
Niger	6193 (1.4%)
Nigeria	5459 (1.2%)
Rwanda	2284 (0.5%)
Senegal	13208 (3.0%)
Seychelles	5314 (1.2%)
Sierra Leone	9611 (2.2%)
South Africa	28370 (6.5%)
Sao Tome Principe	8525 (1.9%)
Swaziland	27211 (6.2%)
Tanzania	16016 (3.6%)
Togo	17879 (4.1%)
Uganda	17452 (4.0%)
Zambia	22263 (5.1%)
Zimbabwe	15344 (3.5%)
Year	
2001	22626 (5.2%)
2002	41637 (9.5%)
2003	26756 (6.1%)
2004	6231 (1.4%)
2005	23145 (5.3%)
2006	32930 (7.5%)
2007	45376 (10.3%)
2008	80144 (18.2%)
2009	29087 (6.6%)

2010	10101 (2.3%)
2011	17660 (4.0%)
2013	20748 (4.7%)
2014	11130 (2.5%)
2015	5295 (1.2%)
2016	7981 (1.8%)
2017	24929 (5.7%)
2018	10118 (2.3%)
2019	12609 (2.9%)
2020	4320 (1.0%)
2021	6499 (1.5%)
Age (years)	
11	23725 (5.4%)
12	39147 (8.9%)
13	66148 (15.1%)
14	87990 (20.0%)
15	88412 (20.1%)
16	70843 (16.1%)
17	57151 (13.0%)
18	5767 (1.3%)
19	139 (0.0%)
Sex	
Female	220964 (50.3%)
Male	218358 (49.7%)
Grade	
6	17738 (4.0%)
7	59676 (13.6%)
8	80567 (18.3%)
9	94407 (21.5%)
10	85954 (19.6%)

11	55764 (12.7%)
12	43798 (10.0%)
13	1360 (0.3%)
14	58 (0.0%)
Used Chewing Tobacco	
No	424,650 (96.7%)
Yes	14,672 (3.3%)
Exposed to Smoking Advertising	
No	6,092 (1.4%)
Yes	433,230 (98.6%)
Exposed to Anti-Smoking in the Media	
No	93,865 (21.4%)
Yes	345,457 (78.6%)
Supported banning of tobacco sales to minors	
No	423,951 (96.5%)
Yes	15,371 (3.5%)
Supported banning of tobacco smoking in public	
No	177,687 (40.5%)
Yes	261,635 (59.6%)
Supported banning of tobacco advertising	
No	431,901 (98.3%)
Yes	7,421 (1.6%)
Owned tobacco branded item	
No	370,692 (84.3%)
Yes	68,630 (15.7%)

Figure 1: Comparison of Predictive Model Performance Across Demographic Groups for Cigarette Smoking Among School-Going Adolescents: Cross-Sectional Secondary Analysis of the Global Youth Tobacco Survey in 45 African Countries, 2001–2021 (N =439,322)



Model Performance Comparison Across Demographics

In Elastic Net, alpha (α) controlled the balance between two types of regularization (Ridge and Lasso regressions); $\alpha = 0.5$ (equal combination of Ridge and Lasso penalties).

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