

GATS Objectives

The Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) is a global standard for systematically monitoring adult tobacco use (smoking and smokeless) and tracking key tobacco control indicators.

GATS is a nationally representative survey, using a consistent and standard protocol across countries including China. GATS enhances countries' capacity to design, implement and evaluate tobacco control programs. It will also assist countries to fulfill their obligations under the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) to generate comparable data within and across countries. WHO developed MPOWER, a technical package of selected demand reduction measures contained in the WHO FCTC that include:



Monitor tobacco use & prevention policies

Protect people from tobacco smoke

Offer help to quit tobacco use

Warn about the dangers of tobacco

Enforce bans on tobacco advertising, promotion, & sponsorship

Raise taxes on tobacco

GATS Methodology

GATS uses a global standardized methodology. It includes information on respondents' background characteristics, tobacco use (smoking and smokeless), electronic cigarette use, cessation, secondhand smoke, economics, media, and knowledge, attitudes and perceptions towards tobacco use. In China, GATS was conducted in 2018 as a household survey of persons 15 years of age and older by China CDC. A multi-stage, geographically clustered sample design was used to produce nationally representative data. A total of 24,370 households were sampled and one individual was randomly selected from each participating household to complete the survey. Survey information was collected electronically by using handheld devices. There were a total of 19,376 completed individual interviews with an overall response rate of 91.5%.

GATS Highlights

TOBACCO USE

- 26.6% overall (307.6 million adults), 50.5% of men, and 2.1% of women currently smoked tobacco.
- 23.2% overall (268.9 million adults), 44.4% of men, and 1.6% of women currently smoked tobacco on a daily basis.
- 22.2% of ever daily smokers started smoking on a daily basis before the age of 18.

CESSATION

- 16.1% of current smokers planned to or were thinking about quitting in the next 12 months.
- 19.8% of smokers made a quit attempt in the past 12 months.
- 15.6% of ever daily smokers have quit.
- 90.1% of smokers who tried to quit in the past 12 months did not use any quitting assistance for at least one quit attempt.

SECONDHAND SMOKE

- 50.9% of adults who worked indoors (216.9 million adults) were exposed to tobacco smoke at the workplace.
- 44.9% of adults (515.0 million adults) were exposed to tobacco smoke at home.

ECONOMICS

- The median price paid for a pack of 20 manufactured cigarettes was 9.9 CNY.
- The median cost of 100 packs of manufactured cigarettes was 1.5% of per capita Gross Domestic Product 2018.

MEDIA

- 18.1% of adults noticed cigarette advertising, promotion, or sponsorship in the past 30 days.
- 63.0% of adults noticed anti-cigarette smoking information in the past 30 days.
- 36.3% of current smokers thought about quitting after noticing health warnings on cigarette packages in the past 30 days.

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES & PERCEPTIONS

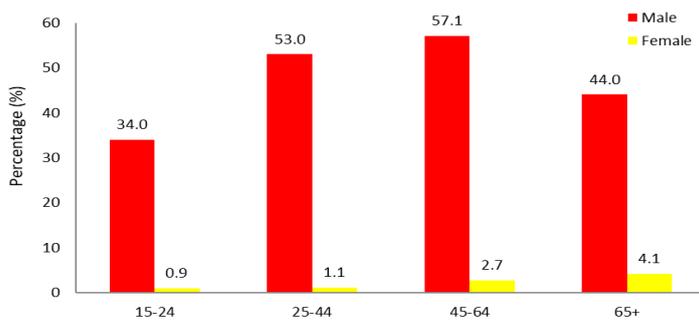
- 41.4%, 50.8%, and 82.8% of adults believed smoking tobacco causes stroke, heart disease, and lung cancer, respectively.
- 39.7%, 65.8%, and 66.7% of adults believed breathing other people's smoke causes heart disease in adults, lung cancer in adults, and lung illnesses in children, respectively.



TOBACCO USE

| TOBACCO SMOKERS | OVERALL (%) | MEN (%) | WOMEN (%) |
|---|-------------|---------|-----------|
| Current tobacco smokers | 26.6 | 50.5 | 2.1 |
| Daily tobacco smokers | 23.2 | 44.4 | 1.6 |
| Manufactured cigarette smokers among current smokers ¹ | 96.7 | 97.1 | 86.7 |
| Ever daily tobacco smokers who started smoking daily before the age of 18 | 22.2 | 22.3 | 18.1 |
| SMOKELESS TOBACCO USERS | | | |
| Current smokeless tobacco users | 0.9 | 1.6 | 0.1 |
| TOBACCO USERS (smoked and/or smokeless) | | | |
| Current tobacco users | 26.6 | 50.5 | 2.1 |

Current Tobacco Smoking by Age and Gender, GATS China 2018



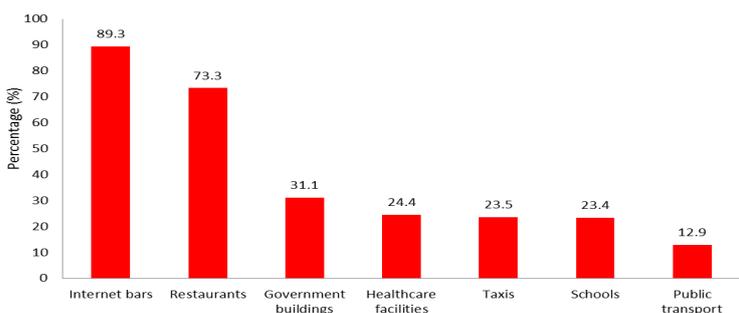
CESSATION

| | OVERALL (%) | MEN (%) | WOMEN (%) |
|---|-------------|---------|-----------|
| Current smokers who planned to or were thinking about quitting in the next 12 months | 16.1 | 16.1 | 17.6 |
| Smokers who made a quit attempt in the past 12 months ² | 19.8 | 19.6 | 23.5 |
| Former daily smokers among ever daily smokers ³ | 15.6 | 15.3 | 23.0 |
| Smokers advised to quit by a health care provider in the past 12 months ^{2,4} | 46.4 | 46.4 | 46.7 |
| Smokers who made at least one quit attempt in the past 12 months without any assistance | 90.1 | 89.9 | 93.2 |

SECONDHAND SMOKE

| | OVERALL (%) | MEN (%) | WOMEN (%) |
|---|-------------|---------|-----------|
| Adults exposed to tobacco smoke at the workplace ^{5,†} | 50.9 | 60.5 | 39.6 |
| Adults exposed to tobacco smoke at home ⁶ | 44.9 | 51.7 | 37.9 |

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke Inside Various Public Places⁷, GATS China 2018



ECONOMICS

| | |
|--|-------|
| Median amount spent on 20 manufactured cigarettes (1 pack) (Chinese yuan, CNY) | 9.9 |
| Median monthly individual expenditure on manufactured cigarettes (Chinese yuan, CNY) | 217.8 |
| Median cost of 100 packs of manufactured cigarettes as a percentage of per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) 2018 ⁸ | 1.5% |

MEDIA

| TOBACCO INDUSTRY ADVERTISING | OVERALL (%) | MEN (%) | WOMEN (%) |
|--|-------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Adults who noticed cigarette advertisements on TV [†] | 2.8 | 3.3 | 2.2 |
| Adults who noticed cigarette advertisements anywhere [†] | 10.7 | 12.8 | 8.6 |
| Adults who noticed any cigarette advertising, promotion, or sponsorship [†] | 18.1 | 22.9 | 13.2 |
| COUNTER ADVERTISING | OVERALL (%) | CURRENT SMOKERS (%) | NON-SMOKERS (%) |
| Adults who noticed anti-cigarette smoking information [†] | 63.0 | 63.7 | 62.8 |
| HEALTH WARNINGS | OVERALL (%) | MEN (%) | WOMEN (%) |
| Current smokers who thought about quitting because of health warnings on cigarette packages ^{9,†} | 36.3 | 36.2 | 38.4 |

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES & PERCEPTIONS

| | OVERALL (%) | CURRENT SMOKERS (%) | NON-SMOKERS (%) |
|---|-------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Adults who believed smoking causes: | | | |
| Stroke | 41.4 | 36.9 | 43.0 |
| Heart disease | 50.8 | 45.4 | 52.8 |
| Lung cancer | 82.8 | 78.0 | 84.5 |
| Adults who believed exposure to tobacco smoke causes: | | | |
| Heart disease in adults | 39.7 | 36.5 | 40.8 |
| Lung cancer in adults | 65.8 | 60.2 | 67.9 |
| Lung illnesses in children | 66.7 | 61.9 | 68.5 |

ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

| | OVERALL (%) | MEN (%) | WOMEN (%) |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------|-----------|
| Ever heard of electronic cigarettes | 48.5 | 59.1 | 37.7 |
| Ever used electronic cigarettes | 5.0 | 9.3 | 0.5 |
| Current user of electronic cigarettes | 0.9 | 1.6 | 0.1 |

¹ The percentage of manufactured cigarette smokers among current tobacco smokers. ² Includes current smokers and former smokers who have been abstinent for less than 12 months. ³ Current non-smokers. ⁴ Among those who visited a health care provider in past 12 months. ⁵ Among those who work outside of the home who usually work indoors or both indoors and outdoors. ⁶ Smoking occurs in the home at least monthly. ⁷ Among those who visited in the past 30 days. ⁸ Estimated China 2018 per capita GDP = 64,644 (Chinese yuan, CNY), provided by the National Bureau of Statistics of China. ⁹ Among those who noticed health warnings on cigarette packages in the past 30 days. [†] During the past 30 days.

NOTE: Current use refers to daily and less than daily use. Adults refer to persons aged 15 years and older. Data have been weighted to be nationally representative of all non-institutionalized men and women aged 15 years and older. Percentages reflect the prevalence of each indicator in each group, not the distribution across groups.

Technical assistance was provided by the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and RTI International. Resources and program support were provided by the *Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use* through the CDC Foundation, with grants from Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Additional resources and in-kind support were provided by the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China.

The findings and conclusions in this fact sheet are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.