


### 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 the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. 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 the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, GATS was conducted in 2019 as a household survey of persons 15 years of age and older by Saudi Arabia Ministry of Health. A multi-stage, geographically clustered sample design was used to produce nationally representative data. A total of 12,800 households were sampled. One individual was randomly chosen from each selected household to participate in the survey. Survey information was collected using handheld devices. The household response rate was 98.0%, the person-level response rate was 96.2%, and overall response rate was 94.3%. There were a total of 11,381 completed individual interviews.

**Note:** The GATS Sample Review Committee was not able to verify the accuracy of the computation of sample weights for the GATS 2019 data in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Caution should be exercised in relying on weighted results from these data to reflect tobacco use and tobacco control indicators in the country.

### GATS Highlights

#### TOBACCO USE

- 19.8% overall, 30.0% of men and 4.2% of women currently use tobacco
- 17.9% overall, 27.5% of men and 3.7% of women currently smoke tobacco.
- 15.2% overall, 24.0% of men and 2.0% of women currently smoke tobacco daily.
- 15.9% overall, 24.9% of men and 2.5% of women currently smoke cigarettes.

#### CESSATION

- 68.5% of smokers who visited a healthcare provider in the past 12 months were advised to quit smoking.
- 42.5% of current smokers planned to or were thinking about quitting in the next 12 months.
- 37.9% of smokers made a quit attempt in the last 12 months.

#### SECONDHAND SMOKE

- 16.4% of adults who worked indoors were exposed to tobacco smoke in enclosed areas at their workplace.
- 13.7% of adults were exposed to tobacco smoke inside their home.
- 54.5% of adults were exposed to tobacco smoke when visiting café, coffee shop or tea houses.

#### ECONOMICS

- The average (mean) amount spent on 20 manufactured cigarettes was 27.0 (Saudi riyal).
- The average (mean) monthly expenditure on manufactured cigarettes was 789.7 (Saudi riyal).

#### MEDIA

- 21.0% of adults noticed anti-cigarette smoking information on the television or radio.
- 6.2% of adults noticed cigarette marketing in stores where cigarettes are sold.
- 8.9% of adults noticed cigarette marketing (other than in stores) or sporting event sponsorship.

#### KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES & PERCEPTIONS

- 75.2%, 87.9%, and 89.8% of adults believed smoking causes stroke, heart attack, and lung cancer respectively.
- 80.7% of adults believed breathing other peoples' smoke causes serious illness in nonsmokers.
- 81.0% of adults supported increasing taxes on tobacco products

### TOBACCO AND ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE USE

TOBACCO USE (smoked and/or smokeless, and/or heated tobacco products)	OVERALL (%)	MEN (%)	WOMEN (%)
Current tobacco users	19.8	30.0	4.2
<b>TOBACCO SMOKING</b>			
Current tobacco smokers	17.9	27.5	3.7
Daily tobacco smokers	15.2	24.0	2.0
Current cigarette smokers <sup>1</sup>	15.9	24.9	2.5
Current manufactured cigarette smokers <sup>1</sup>	15.7	24.8	2.3
Average age at daily smoking initiation <sup>2</sup>	18.0	17.9	19.3
Average number of cigarettes consumed per day by daily cigarette smokers	25.5	25.8	19.7
Current shisha smoker	6.7	9.7	2.3
<b>SMOKELESS TOBACCO USERS</b>			
Current smokeless tobacco users	2.4	3.7	0.5
Daily smokeless tobacco users	1.4	2.1	0.2
<b>HEATED TOBACCO PRODUCT USERS</b>			
Ever heard of heated tobacco products	8.4	11.6	3.7
Ever used heated tobacco products	0.5	0.7	0.1
Current user of heated tobacco products	0.1	0.1	0.0
<b>ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE USE</b>			
Ever heard of electronic cigarettes	37.8	45.7	26.0
Ever used electronic cigarettes	3.1	4.5	1.2
Current user of electronic cigarettes	0.8	1.1	0.4

### CESSATION

	OVERALL (%)	MEN (%)	WOMEN (%)
Smokers who made a quit attempt in the past 12 months <sup>3</sup>	37.9	38.7	28.7
Smokers advised to quit by health care provider in the past 12 months <sup>4</sup>	68.5	69.4	58.0
Current smokers planned to or were thinking about quitting in the next 12 months.	42.5	42.8	38.0
Former daily tobacco smokers (Among ever daily smokers) <sup>5</sup>	12.1	12.0	12.5
<b>Cessation Methods</b>			
Prescription, and nicotine replacement	22.2	22.5	18.4
Counseling/Quitline	23.7	22.8	35.8
Quit without assistance	66.2	67.5	48.2
Other	15.1	15.8	4.4

### SECONDHAND SMOKE

	OVERALL (%)	MEN (%)	WOMEN (%)
Adults exposed to tobacco smoke at the workplace <sup>6,†</sup>	16.4	18.8	6.8
Adults exposed to tobacco smoke at home <sup>7</sup>	13.7	16.6	9.2
<b>Adults exposed to tobacco smoke in the following places<sup>†</sup></b>			
Health care facilities <sup>8</sup>	7.4	8.0	6.5
Government buildings/offices <sup>9</sup>	12.4	13.2	10.0
Public transportation <sup>10</sup>	24.2	27.4	18.2
Café, coffee shops, tea houses <sup>11</sup>	54.5	60.3	41.5
Restaurants <sup>12</sup>	21.9	22.3	21.2
Schools <sup>13</sup>	7.2	9.4	3.9

### ECONOMICS

Average amount spent on 20 manufactured cigarettes [Saudi riyal]	27.0
Average amount spent in last 30 days on manufactured cigarettes [Saudi riyal]	789.7
Cost of 100 packs of manufactured cigarettes as a percentage of per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) [2019] <sup>14</sup>	3.1

### MEDIA

TOBACCO INDUSTRY ADVERTISING	OVERALL (%)	CURRENT SMOKERS (%)	NON-SMOKERS (%)
Adults who noticed any sponsorship or promotion of cigarettes <sup>†</sup>	5.9	9.7	5.1
Adults who noticed any promotion, advertisement or signs promoting cigarette in stores <sup>15†</sup>	6.2	10.7	5.2
Adults who noticed any cigarette advertisement/promotion (other than in stores), or sporting event <sup>†</sup>	8.9	12.9	8.1
<b>COUNTER ADVERTISING</b>			
Current smokers who thought about quitting because of a warning label on cigarette packages <sup>†</sup>	35.9	36.9	24.9
<b>OVERALL (%) CURRENT SMOKERS (%) NON-SMOKERS (%)</b>			
Adults who noticed anti-cigarette smoking information on the television or radio <sup>†</sup>	21.0	18.3	21.6

### KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES & PERCEPTIONS

	OVERALL (%)	CURRENT SMOKERS (%)	NON-SMOKERS (%)
<b>Adults who believed smoking causes:</b>			
Serious illness	75.0	77.1	74.5
Lung cancer	89.8	92.3	89.3
Heart attack	87.9	90.2	87.4
Stroke	75.2	72.4	75.8
Adults believed breathing other peoples' smoke causes serious illness in nonsmokers.	80.7	81.4	79.5
Adults supported increasing taxes on tobacco products	81.0	76.3	88.0

<sup>1</sup> Includes manufactured cigarettes and hand-rolled cigarettes. <sup>2</sup> Among daily smokers age 15-34 years. <sup>3</sup> Includes current smokers and those who quit in the past 12 months. <sup>4</sup> Among those who visited a health care provider in past 12 months. <sup>5</sup> Current non-smokers. <sup>6</sup> Among those who work outside of the home who usually work indoors or both indoors and outdoors. <sup>7</sup> Smoking occurs in the home at least monthly. <sup>8</sup> Among those who visited health care facilities in the past 30 days. <sup>9</sup> Among those who visited government buildings in the past 30 days. <sup>10</sup> Among those who used public transportation in the past 30 days. <sup>11</sup> Among those who visited café, coffee shop or tea houses in the past 30 days. <sup>12</sup> Among those who visited restaurants in the past 30 days. <sup>13</sup> Among those who visited schools in the past 30 days. <sup>14</sup> GDP per capita: 85,744.416, obtained from the World Economic Outlook, October 2019 published by the International Monetary Fund. <sup>15</sup> Includes those who noticed cigarettes at sale prices; free gifts or discount offers on other products when buying cigarettes; or any advertisements or signs promoting cigarettes in stores where cigarettes are sold. <sup>†</sup> 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.

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