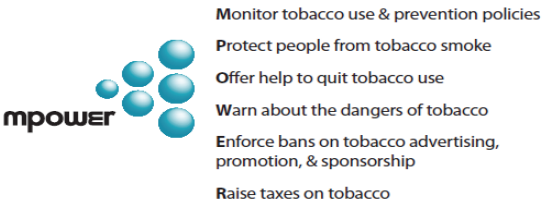
GATS | GLOBAL ADULT TOBACCO SURVEY

COMPARISON FACT SHEET
Uganda 2013 & 2023

BACKGROUND

Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) is a nationally representative household survey of adults aged 15 years and older, using a global standard protocol to systematically monitor tobacco use (including smoked, smokeless tobacco, and heated tobacco products) and track key tobacco control indicators. In Uganda, GATS was first conducted in 2013 and repeated in 2023. GATS 2023 was implemented by the African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET), under the coordination of the Uganda Ministry of Health and Uganda Bureau of Statistics. Both surveys used similar multistage stratified cluster sample designs to produce nationally representative data. There were 8,508 interviews completed in the 2013 survey with an overall response rate of 86.6%. In 2023, 10,177 interviews were completed with an overall response rate of 97.6%**.** For additional information, refer to the GATS Uganda 2013 and 2023 country fact sheets.



GATS enhances countries' capacity to design, implement, and evaluate tobacco control programs. It also supports countries in fulfilling their obligations under the World Health Organization's (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) by generating comparable data within and across countries. WHO has developed MPOWER, a package of six evidence-based demand reduction measures outlined in the WHO FCTC.

KEY POLICY CHANGES

Since the first round of GATS was conducted in 2013, Uganda has had major changes in the tobacco control environment. The most notable of these is the enactment of the comprehensive Tobacco Control Act 2015, which is compliant with the WHO FCTC. The Act bans smoking in public places, as well as advertising, promotion, and sponsorship of tobacco products. It prohibits the production, importation, and sale of selected tobacco products (shisha, e-cigarettes, heated tobacco products, smokeless, and flavored tobacco). The Act also increased the age of purchase and use of tobacco products to 21 years. Additionally, the Act mandates graphic health warnings on cigarette packages to covering 65% of the principal display areas among other measures. The Act further bans:

- Use and sale of electronic nicotine delivery systems including electronic cigarettes and heated tobacco products.
- Use of waterpipe/shisha, smokeless tobacco products, additives, and flavors to tobacco products.
- All forms of direct and indirect tobacco advertisement, promotion, and sponsorship including the display of tobacco products at the point of sale.
- The sale of single-stick cigarettes.

In 2017, the Uganda Excise Duty (amendment) Act 2017 significantly revised the tobacco excise tax system, increasing taxes to approximately 35% of the retail price of tobacco products.

KEY FINDINGS

Monitor: The overall tobacco use prevalence decreased from 7.9% in 2013 to 6.7% in 2023, representing a relative reduction of 14.9%. The most significant reduction was among women, with prevalence decreasing from 4.6 to 2.6%, a relative reduction of 43.6%. Moreover, there was a significant change in the age of daily smoking initiation among 20-34 years old who ever smoked daily, increasing from 18.3 years in 2013 to 19.9 years in 2023 (data not presented in the figures). This increase approaches the age 21 minimum set by the Tobacco Control Act 2015.

Protect: Overall, between 2013 and 2023, there was a significant reduction in exposure to secondhand smoke at homes (13.0% vs. 9.5%), in workplaces (20.7% vs. 15.3%), and among those who visited restaurants (16.2% vs. 11.8%), and schools (4.7% vs. 1.7%, data not presented in the figure); however, exposure to secondhand smoke remained about the same in government buildings (5.9% vs. 8.3%), bars or nightclubs (62.3% vs. 62.9%).

Offer: Overall, there was a slight reduction in interest to quit smoking from 62.9% in 2013 to 61.0% in 2023. The percentage of those who were advised by healthcare providers to quit remained about the same from 44.3% in 2013 to 43.3% in 2023.

Warn: The percentage of adults who currently smoked and noticed health warnings on cigarette packs increased from 49.1% in 2013 to 58.0% in 2023. Those who thought about quitting because of the health warning labels increased from 31.7% to 39.3% in 2023.

Enforce: The percentage of adults who noticed any cigarette or other tobacco product marketing at any location reduced from 25.4% to 10.5%. The percentage of adults who noticed any in-store advertising or promotion of cigarettes significantly declined from 11.0% in 2013 to 4.5% in 2023.

Raise: There was a reduction in the inflation-adjusted mean price for a pack of 20 manufactured cigarettes from 4,255 Uganda shillings (UGX) in 2013 to 3,503 Uganda shillings (UGX) in 2023.

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

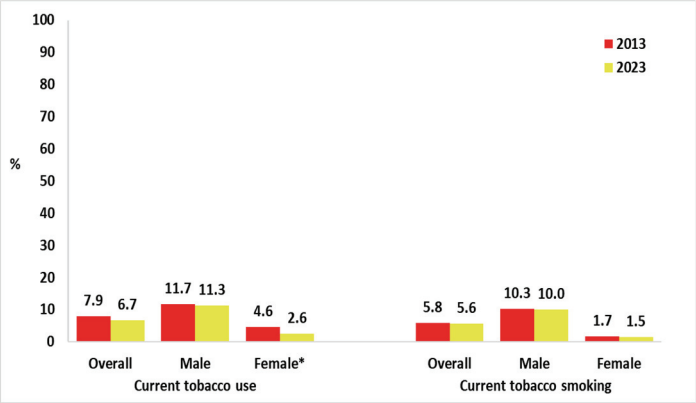
AFENET
African Field Epidemiology Network
A healthier Africa

World Health Organization

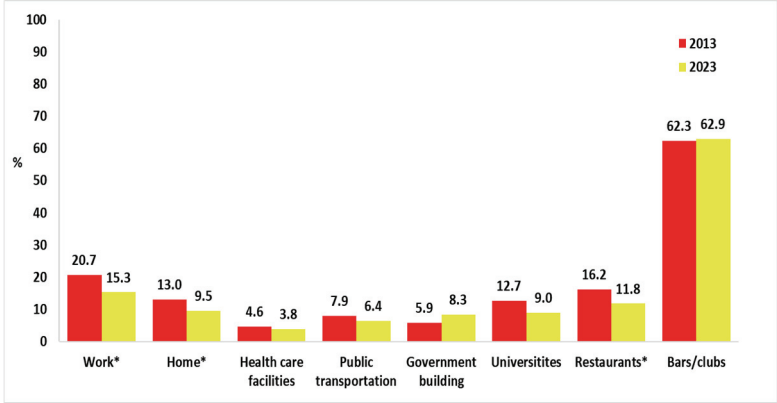
GATS | GLOBAL ADULT TOBACCO SURVEY

COMPARISON FACT SHEET
Uganda 2013 & 2023

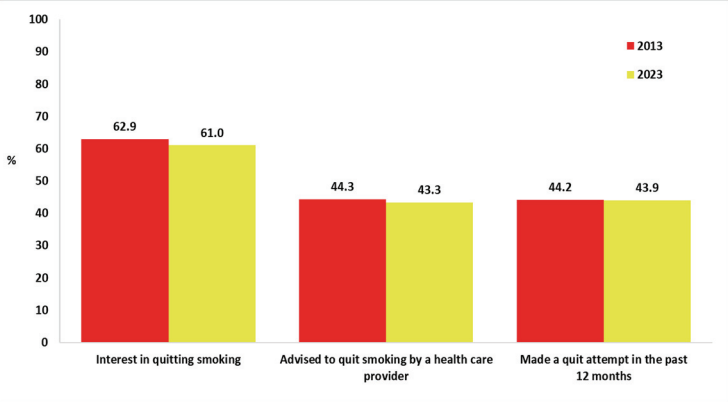
Prevalence of current tobacco use[1] and current tobacco smoking by gender, Uganda 2013 and 2023



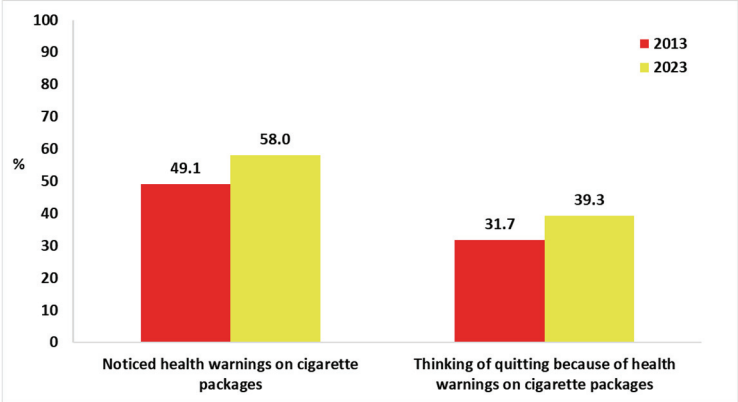
Exposure to secondhand smoke at work, home and inside various places[2], Uganda 2013 and 2023



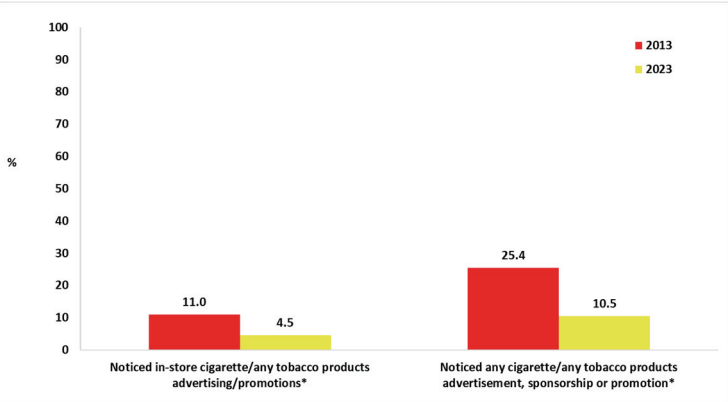
Interest in quitting[3], advice to quit by a healthcare provider[4,5], and quit attempts[4], Uganda 2013 and 2023



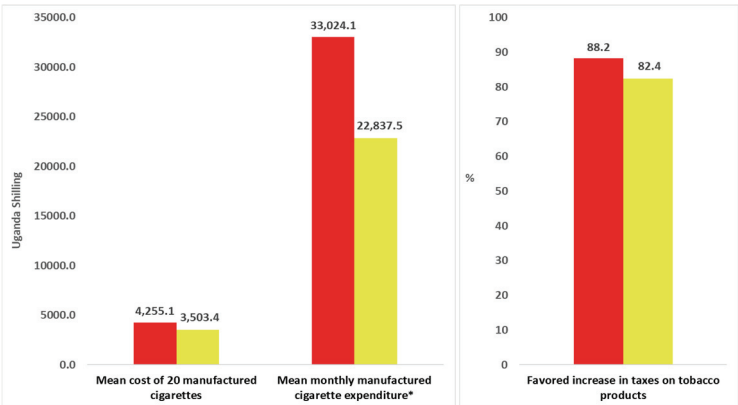
Noticing and effects of cigarette package health warning labels in the past 30 days among current smokers, Uganda 2013 and 2023



Noticing in-store tobacco advertising/promotions[6] and any tobacco advertisement, promotion, or sponsorship during the past 30 days, Uganda 2013 and 2023



Average (mean) cost of 20 manufactured cigarettes[7], cigarette expenditure per month[7], and support for increasing taxes on tobacco products, Uganda 2013[8] and 2023



NOTES: [1] Current tobacco use includes current tobacco smoking, smokeless tobacco use, and/or heated tobacco product use. Heated tobacco product use was included in the 2023 questionnaire but not in 2013. [2] Secondhand smoke indicators calculated as follows: Workplace: among those who work outside of the home who usually work indoors or both indoors and outdoors; Home: exposure to tobacco smoke at home at least monthly; For all other places: among those who visited in the past 30 days. [3] Current smokers who planned to or were thinking about quitting. [4] Includes current smokers and those who quit in the past 12 months. [5] Among those who visited a health care provider in past 12 months. [6] Includes those who noticed any advertisements or signs promoting tobacco in stores where tobacco is sold; tobacco at sale prices; or free gifts or discount offers on other products when buying tobacco. [7] Among current manufactured cigarette smokers. [8] GATS 2013 cost data were adjusted for inflation for direct comparison to 2023 using the Inflation Rate for Average Consumer Prices from the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook Database accessed on April 15, 2024. * Indicates the relative change between the two years is statistically significant at p<0.05. The relative change can be interpreted as the percentage of the estimate in year 2 as it decreases or increases compared to year 1.

Current use refers to daily and less than daily use. Adults refer to persons aged 15 years or 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. Results for prevalence estimates and averages are rounded to the nearest tenth (0.1) but relative changes are calculated using un-rounded estimates.

This fact sheet is based on work funded by the CDC Foundation with a grant from the Gates Foundation. Technical assistance was provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and RTI International. Program support was provided by the CDC Foundation. The findings and conclusions in this fact sheet are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the CDC Foundation or the Gates Foundation.

07 May 2025