

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 Panama. GATS enhances countries' capacity to design, implement and evaluate tobacco control programs. It also assists 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 has developed MPOWER, a package of selected demand reduction measures contained in the WHO FCTC:



- 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), cessation, secondhand smoke, economics, media, and knowledge, attitudes and perceptions towards tobacco use. In Panama, GATS was conducted in 2013 as a household survey of persons 15 years of age and older by the Gorgas Memorial Institute for Health Studies (ICGES), under the coordination of the Ministry of Health Panama. A multi-stage, geographically clustered sample design was used to produce nationally representative data. A total of 19,603 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 16,962 completed individual interviews with an overall response rate of 88.4%.

GATS Highlights

TOBACCO USE

- 9.4% of men, 2.8% of women, and 6.1% overall (163 thousand adults) currently smoked tobacco.
- 1.0% of men, 0.5% of women, and 0.8% overall (20 thousand adults) currently used smokeless tobacco.

CESSATION

- 6 in 10 current smokers planned to or were thinking about quitting.
- 5 in 10 smokers made a quit attempt in the last 12 months.

SECONDHAND SMOKE

- 5.6% of adults who worked indoors (41 thousand adults) were exposed to tobacco smoke at the workplace.
- 4.4% of adults (118 thousand adults) were exposed to tobacco smoke at home.
- 12.4% of adults (157 thousand adults) were exposed to tobacco smoke when visiting restaurants.

ECONOMICS

- On average, a current cigarette smoker spent 72.6 US Dollars per month on manufactured cigarettes.
- 36.3% of current manufactured cigarette smokers purchased illegal cigarettes in the past 12 months.

MEDIA

- 6 in 10 adults noticed anti-cigarette smoking information on the television or radio.
- 2 in 10 adults noticed cigarette marketing in stores where cigarettes are sold.
- 3 in 10 adults noticed cigarette marketing (other than in stores) or sporting event sponsorship.

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES & PERCEPTIONS

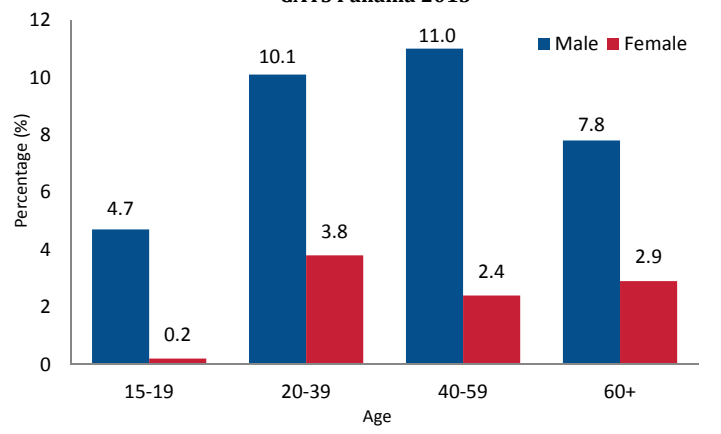
- 90.6% of adults believed smoking causes serious illness.
- 87.5% of adults believed breathing other people's smoke causes serious illness in non-smokers.



TOBACCO USE

TOBACCO SMOKERS	MEN (%)	WOMEN (%)	OVERALL (%)
Current tobacco smokers	9.4	2.8	6.1
Daily tobacco smokers	4.4	1.2	2.8
Current cigarette smokers ¹	8.9	2.7	5.8
Daily cigarette smokers ¹	3.6	1.2	2.4
Former daily tobacco smokers ² (among all adults)	3.1	2.2	2.6
Former daily tobacco smokers ² (among ever daily smokers)	30.6	52.3	37.0
	MEN (#)	WOMEN (#)	OVERALL (#)
Average number of cigarettes smoked per day among daily cigarette smokers	16.3	10.1	14.8
SMOKELESS TOBACCO USERS	MEN (%)	WOMEN (%)	OVERALL (%)
Current smokeless tobacco users	1.0	0.5	0.8
TOBACCO USERS (smoked and/or smokeless)	MEN (%)	WOMEN (%)	OVERALL (%)
Current tobacco users	9.7	3.1	6.4

Current Tobacco Smokers by Age and Gender, GATS Panama 2013



CESSATION

	MEN (%)	WOMEN (%)	OVERALL (%)
Smokers who made a quit attempt in past 12 months ³	44.4	48.2	45.2
Current smokers who planned to or were thinking about quitting	62.1	71.8	64.4
Smokers advised to quit by a health care provider in past 12 months ^{3,4}	63.7	53.0	60.4

SECONDHAND SMOKE

	MEN (%)	WOMEN (%)	OVERALL (%)
Adults exposed to tobacco smoke at the workplace ^{5,†}	7.4	3.7	5.6
Adults exposed to tobacco smoke at home at least monthly	5.3	3.5	4.4
Adults exposed to tobacco smoke in restaurants ⁶	14.0	10.8	12.4

ECONOMICS

Average amount spent on 20 manufactured cigarettes [US Dollars]	6.55
Average cigarette expenditure per month among manufactured cigarette smokers [US Dollars]	72.56
Cost of 100 packs of manufactured cigarettes as a percentage of per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) 2013 ⁷	5.9%
Current manufactured cigarette smokers who purchased illegal cigarettes in the past 12 months ⁸	36.3%

MEDIA

TOBACCO INDUSTRY ADVERTISING	CURRENTSMOKERS (%)	NON-SMOKERS (%)	OVERALL (%)
Adults who noticed cigarette marketing in stores where cigarettes are sold ^{9,†}	27.8	19.6	20.1
Adults who noticed any cigarette advertisements/promotions (other than in stores), or sporting event sponsorship [†]	31.6	28.3	28.5
COUNTER ADVERTISING	MEN (%)	WOMEN (%)	OVERALL (%)
Current smokers who thought about quitting because of a warning label [†]	39.0	47.7	41.0
	CURRENTSMOKERS (%)	NON-SMOKERS (%)	OVERALL (%)
Adults who noticed anti-cigarette smoking information on the television or radio [†]	53.3	56.9	56.7

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES & PERCEPTIONS

	CURRENTSMOKERS (%)	NON-SMOKERS (%)	OVERALL (%)
Adults who believed smoking causes serious illness	93.1	90.5	90.6
Adults who believed breathing other peoples' smoke causes serious illness in nonsmokers	92.7	87.2	87.5
Adults who were aware of the law that prohibits smoking in public places	91.5	87.2	87.5
	CURRENT SMOKELESS USERS (%)	NON-USERS (%)	OVERALL (%)
Adults who believed smokeless tobacco use causes serious illness	80.1	83.3	83.3

¹ Includes manufactured cigarettes, hand-rolled cigarettes, and kreteks. ² Current non-smokers. ³ Includes current smokers and those who quit in the past 12 months. ⁴ Among those who visited a health care provider in the past 12 months. ⁵ Among those who work outside of the home who usually work indoors or both indoors and outdoors. ⁶ Among those who visited restaurants in the past 30 days. ⁷ 2013 per capita GDP estimated at 11,149.664 from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) website (accessed October 2, 2013). ⁸ Defined as purchasing cigarette packs that did not have any pictorial health warnings. ⁹ 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. [†] 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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