

Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS)

Executive Country Report: **Turkey**

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Executive summary

Tobacco use is a major preventable cause of premature death and disease, presently causing over 5 million deaths each year and expected to cause over 8 million deaths yearly by 2030. Within the European Region, tobacco is responsible for approximately 1.6 million deaths. The World Health Organization (WHO) – Tobacco Free Initiative (TFI) aims to reduce the global burden of disease and death caused by tobacco, thereby protecting present and future generations from the devastating health, social, environmental and economic consequences of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke. This will be accomplished by providing global policy leadership -- promoting the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), as well as the MPOWER package of tobacco policies as a key entry point to the FCTC. Within the European Region, 46 countries and the European Community have ratified the Treaty. Turkey ratified the FCTC in 2004.

In August 2006, the WHO and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) convened an expert consultation to discuss adult tobacco surveillance and made recommendations for the development of a standard survey protocol. The Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) enables countries to collect data on key tobacco control measures in the adult population. The aim of the GATS is to collect data on tobacco use and tobacco control measures using a standardized questionnaire, sample design and data collection/management procedures among adults aged 15 years or over. Results from the GATS will assist countries in the formulation, tracking and implementation of effective tobacco control interventions, and countries will be able to compare results of their survey with results from other countries implementing the GATS.

Methods

The GATS survey was implemented in Turkey in November 2008. The sample design included all settlements in Turkey, except for villages with a population less than 200. Based on the results of the 2006 Turkey Time Use Survey, a sample of 11,200 households was made for the GATS. The sampling method of the survey is a three-staged stratified systematic cluster sample. In the first stage, a total of 400 primary sampling units (PSUs) were selected - 200 PSUs from urban areas and 200 PSUs from rural areas. In the second stage, 28 households were selected systematically within each selected PSU. In the last stage, one eligible individual aged 15 years and over was selected randomly within each selected household by using a listing from the household roster that constituted all eligible individuals by gender. The overall household response rate was 93.7%; 94.8% urban and 92.7% rural. In total, the household roster was completed in 9322 households. The individual response rates were 97.0% overall, 97.7% urban, and 96.3% rural. In total, 9030 persons completed the survey.

Tobacco use

A total of 31.2% of adults (approximately 16 million) aged 15 years and over were currently smoking in Turkey. Men (47.9%) were more likely to smoke tobacco than women (15.2%). Approximately 12 million men and 4 million women smoked tobacco. Almost half of men (43.8%) and 11.6% of women were current daily smokers (11 million men and 3 million women).