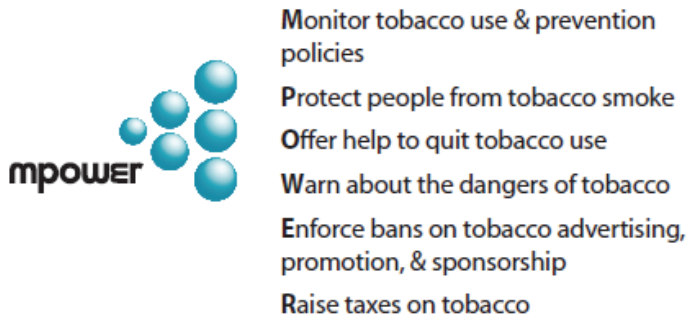


GATS Objectives

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

GATS is a nationally representative survey, using a consistent and standard protocol across countries including Costa Rica. 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 assistance package of selected demand reduction measures contained in the WHO FCTC that include:



GATS Methodology

GATS uses a global standardized methodology. It includes information on respondents' background characteristics, tobacco use (smoking, smokeless, heated tobacco products), electronic cigarette use, cessation, secondhand smoke, economics, media, and knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions towards tobacco use. In Costa Rica, GATS was conducted in 2022 as a household survey of persons 15 years of age and older by the Institute on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (IAFA) under the coordination of the Ministry of Health. A multi-stage, geographically clustered sample design was used to produce nationally representative data. A total of 9,600 households were sampled. One individual was randomly chosen from each participating household to complete the survey. Survey information was collected electronically by using handheld devices. There were a total of 8,011 completed individual interviews, with an overall response rate of 85.5%.

GATS Highlights

TOBACCO USE

- 8.7% overall (0.4 million adults), 13.1% of men, and 4.3% of women currently used tobacco (smoking, smokeless, or heated tobacco products).
- 8.5% overall (0.3 million adults), 12.9% of men, and 4.1% of women currently smoked tobacco.
- 9.2% of urban residents and 6.6% of rural residents currently smoked tobacco.
- 0.2% overall (0.01 million adults), 0.2% of men, and 0.2% of women currently used smokeless tobacco.

CESSATION

- 72.2% of adults who currently smoked tobacco planned to or were thinking about quitting.
- 59.9% of adults who smoked in the past 12 months and visited a healthcare provider were advised to quit smoking.

SECONDHAND SMOKE

- 3.7% of adults who worked indoors (0.04 million adults) were exposed to tobacco smoke in enclosed areas at their workplace.
- 4.1% of adults (0.2 million adults) were exposed to tobacco smoke inside their homes.
- 7.2% of adults (0.1 million adults) were exposed to tobacco smoke when visiting restaurants.

ECONOMICS

- The average (mean) amount spent on 20 manufactured cigarettes was 1939.7 Costa Rican colones.
- The average (mean) monthly expenditure on manufactured cigarettes was 22376.1 Costa Rican colones.

MEDIA

- 33.0% of adults noticed anti-cigarette smoking information on the television or radio.
- 32.2% of adults noticed cigarette advertising or promotions in stores where cigarettes are sold.
- 49.2% of adults noticed any cigarette advertisements, promotions, or sporting event sponsorship.

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES, & PERCEPTIONS

- 97.3% of adults believed smoking causes serious illness.
- 94.4% of adults believed breathing other peoples' smoke causes serious illness in non-smokers.

TOBACCO USE

TOBACCO USE (smoking, smokeless, or heated tobacco products)	OVERALL (%)	MEN (%)	WOMEN (%)
Current tobacco users	8.7	13.1	4.3

TOBACCO SMOKING

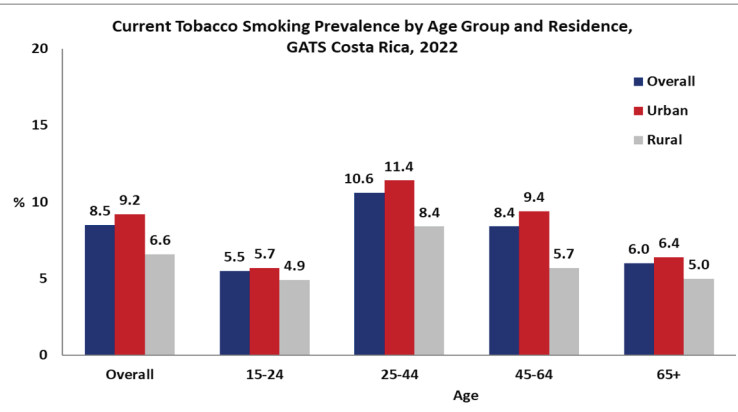
Current tobacco smokers	8.5	12.9	4.1
Daily tobacco smokers	5.6	8.8	2.3
Current cigarette smokers ¹	8.2	12.5	4.0
Daily cigarette smokers ¹	5.4	8.6	2.3
Former daily tobacco smokers ² (among all adults)	8.5	12.5	4.4
Former daily tobacco smokers ^{2,3} (among ever daily smokers)	54.9	54.3	56.6

	OVERALL (#)	MEN (#)	WOMEN (#)
Average age of daily smoking initiation among ever daily tobacco smokers 20-34 years old (years)	18.0	18.0	18.0
Average number of cigarettes smoked per day among daily cigarette smokers	10.7	10.9	9.9

SMOKELESS TOBACCO USE	OVERALL (%)	MEN (%)	WOMEN (%)
Current smokeless tobacco users	0.2	0.2	0.2

HEATED TOBACCO PRODUCT USE

Ever heard of heated tobacco products	5.6	7.1	4.0
Ever used heated tobacco products	0.1	0.1	0.1
Current user of heated tobacco products	0.04	0.05	0.02



ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

	OVERALL (%)	MEN (%)	WOMEN (%)
Ever heard of electronic cigarettes	58.4	62.7	54
Ever used electronic cigarettes	6.5	8.9	4.1
Current user of electronic cigarettes	1.6	2.2	1.0

CESSATION

	OVERALL (%)	MEN (%)	WOMEN (%)
Smokers who made a quit attempt in the past 12 months ⁴	53.7	52.0	58.8
Current smokers who planned to or were thinking about quitting ⁵	72.2	71.4	74.7
Smokers advised to quit by a health care provider in the past 12 months ^{4,6}	59.9	54.2	72.9

SECONDHAND SMOKE

	OVERALL (%)	MEN (%)	WOMEN (%)
Adults exposed to tobacco smoke at the workplace ^{7,8}	3.7	4.1	3.0
Adults exposed to tobacco smoke at home at least monthly	4.1	4.4	3.7
Adults exposed to tobacco smoke inside: ^{8,9}			
Government buildings or offices	4.5	5.6	3.0
Healthcare facilities	3.0	3.9	2.3
Restaurants	7.2	7.0	7.6
Public transportation	3.9	4.3	3.7

ECONOMICS

Average (mean) amount spent on 20 manufactured cigarettes (Costa Rican colones)	1939.7
Average (mean) monthly expenditure on manufactured cigarettes (Costa Rican colones)	22376.1
Cost of 100 packs of manufactured cigarettes as a percentage of per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) [2022] ⁹	2.3%

MEDIA

ANTI-TOBACCO WARNINGS	OVERALL (%)	CURRENT SMOKERS (%)	NON-SMOKERS (%)
Adults who noticed anti-cigarette smoking information on the television or radio ⁸	33.0	37.5	32.5

	OVERALL (%)	MEN (%)	WOMEN (%)
Current smokers who thought about quitting because of a warning label ⁸	54.3	54.3	54.5

TOBACCO INDUSTRY ADVERTISING	OVERALL (%)	CURRENT SMOKERS (%)	NON-SMOKERS (%)
Adults who noticed cigarette advertising or promotions in stores where cigarettes are sold ^{10,8}	32.2	30.3	32.3
Adults who noticed any cigarette advertisements, promotions, or sporting event sponsorship ⁸	49.2	46.6	49.5

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES & PERCEPTIONS

	OVERALL (%)	CURRENT SMOKERS (%)	NON-SMOKERS (%)
Adults who believed smoking causes serious illness	97.3	96.6	97.4
Adults who believed breathing other peoples' smoke causes serious illness in nonsmokers	94.4	91.1	94.7
	OVERALL (%)	CURRENT SMOKELESS USERS (%)	NON-USERS (%)
Adults who believed smokeless tobacco use causes serious illness	65.1	-	65.1

¹ Includes manufactured and hand-rolled cigarettes. ² Current non-smokers. ³ Quit ratio for daily smoking. ⁴ Includes current smokers and former smokers who quit in the past 12 months. ⁵ Planning or thinking about quitting within the next month, 12 months, or someday. ⁶ Among those who visited a health care provider in the past 12 months. ⁷ Among those who work outside of the home who usually work indoors or both indoors and outdoors. ⁸ Among those who visited the place in the past 30 days. ⁹ Estimated Costa Rica 2022 per capita GDP = 8,363,633 Costa Rican colones, provided by the International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook database, October 2022 edition. ¹⁰ Includes those who noticed any advertisements or signs promoting cigarettes in stores where cigarettes are sold; cigarettes at sale prices; or free gifts or discount offers on other products when buying cigarettes. ⁸ During the past 30 days. - Indicates estimate based on less than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

NOTE: 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 or older. Percentages reflect the prevalence of each indicator in each group, not the distribution across groups.

Financial support was provided by the Ministry of Health in Costa Rica. 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 author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the CDC.