


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 China. 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 China, GATS was conducted in 2018 as a household survey of persons 15 years of age and older by China CDC. A multi-stage, geographically clustered sample design was used to produce nationally representative data. A total of 24,370 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 19,376 completed individual interviews with an overall response rate of 91.5%.

GATS Highlights

TOBACCO USE

- 26.6% overall (307.6 million adults), 50.5% of men, and 2.1% of women currently smoked tobacco.
- 23.2% overall (268.9 million adults), 44.4% of men, and 1.6% of women currently smoked tobacco on a daily basis.
- 22.2% of ever daily smokers started smoking on a daily basis before the age of 18.

CESSATION

- 16.1% of current smokers planned to or were thinking about quitting in the next 12 months.
- 19.8% of smokers made a quit attempt in the past 12 months.
- 15.6% of ever daily smokers have quit.
- 90.1% of smokers who tried to quit in the past 12 months did not use any quitting assistance for at least one quit attempt.

SECONDHAND SMOKE

- 50.9% of adults who worked indoors (216.9 million adults) were exposed to tobacco smoke at the workplace.
- 44.9% of adults (515.0 million adults) were exposed to tobacco smoke at home.

ECONOMICS

- The median price paid for a pack of 20 manufactured cigarettes was 9.9 CNY.
- The median cost of 100 packs of manufactured cigarettes was 1.5% of per capita Gross Domestic Product 2018.

MEDIA

- 18.1% of adults noticed cigarette advertising, promotion, or sponsorship in the past 30 days.
- 63.0% of adults noticed anti-cigarette smoking information in the past 30 days.
- 36.3% of current smokers thought about quitting after noticing health warnings on cigarette packages in the past 30 days.

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES & PERCEPTIONS

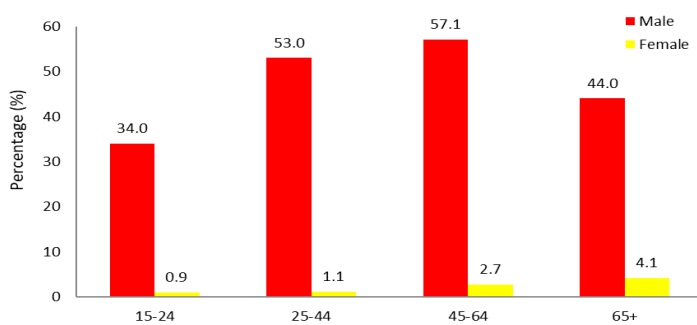
- 41.4%, 50.8%, and 82.8% of adults believed smoking tobacco causes stroke, heart disease, and lung cancer, respectively.
- 39.7%, 65.8%, and 66.7% of adults believed breathing other people's smoke causes heart disease in adults, lung cancer in adults, and lung illnesses in children, respectively.



TOBACCO USE

| TOBACCO SMOKERS | OVERALL (%) | MEN (%) | WOMEN (%) |
|---|-------------|---------|-----------|
| Current tobacco smokers | 26.6 | 50.5 | 2.1 |
| Daily tobacco smokers | 23.2 | 44.4 | 1.6 |
| Manufactured cigarette smokers among current smokers ¹ | 96.7 | 97.1 | 86.7 |
| Ever daily tobacco smokers who started smoking daily before the age of 18 | 22.2 | 22.3 | 18.1 |
| SMOKELESS TOBACCO USERS | | | |
| Current smokeless tobacco users | 0.9 | 1.6 | 0.1 |
| TOBACCO USERS (smoked and/or smokeless) | | | |
| Current tobacco users | 26.6 | 50.5 | 2.1 |

Current Tobacco Smoking by Age and Gender, GATS China 2018



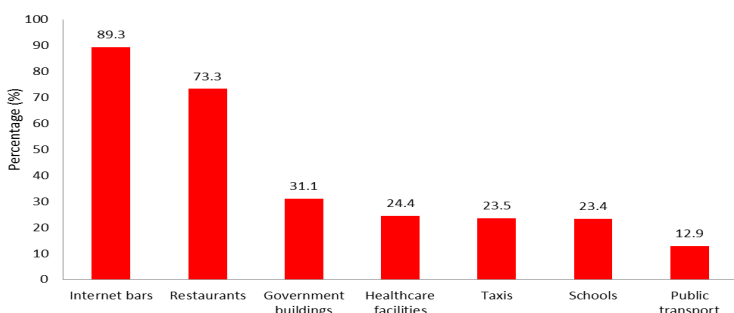
CESSATION

| | OVERALL (%) | MEN (%) | WOMEN (%) |
|---|-------------|---------|-----------|
| Current smokers who planned to or were thinking about quitting in the next 12 months | 16.1 | 16.1 | 17.6 |
| Smokers who made a quit attempt in the past 12 months ² | 19.8 | 19.6 | 23.5 |
| Former daily smokers among ever daily smokers ³ | 15.6 | 15.3 | 23.0 |
| Smokers advised to quit by a health care provider in the past 12 months ^{2,4} | 46.4 | 46.4 | 46.7 |
| Smokers who made at least one quit attempt in the past 12 months without any assistance | 90.1 | 89.9 | 93.2 |

SECONDHAND SMOKE

| | OVERALL (%) | MEN (%) | WOMEN (%) |
|---|-------------|---------|-----------|
| Adults exposed to tobacco smoke at the workplace ^{5,†} | 50.9 | 60.5 | 39.6 |
| Adults exposed to tobacco smoke at home ⁶ | 44.9 | 51.7 | 37.9 |

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke Inside Various Public Places⁷, GATS China 2018



ECONOMICS

| | |
|--|-------|
| Median amount spent on 20 manufactured cigarettes (1 pack) (Chinese yuan, CNY) | 9.9 |
| Median monthly individual expenditure on manufactured cigarettes (Chinese yuan, CNY) | 217.8 |
| Median cost of 100 packs of manufactured cigarettes as a percentage of per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) 2018 ⁸ | 1.5% |

MEDIA

| TOBACCO INDUSTRY ADVERTISING | OVERALL (%) | MEN (%) | WOMEN (%) |
|--|-------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Adults who noticed cigarette advertisements on TV [†] | 2.8 | 3.3 | 2.2 |
| Adults who noticed cigarette advertisements anywhere [†] | 10.7 | 12.8 | 8.6 |
| Adults who noticed any cigarette advertising, promotion, or sponsorship [†] | 18.1 | 22.9 | 13.2 |
| COUNTER ADVERTISING | OVERALL (%) | CURRENT SMOKERS (%) | NON-SMOKERS (%) |
| Adults who noticed anti-cigarette smoking information [†] | 63.0 | 63.7 | 62.8 |
| HEALTH WARNINGS | OVERALL (%) | MEN (%) | WOMEN (%) |
| Current smokers who thought about quitting because of health warnings on cigarette packages ^{9,†} | 36.3 | 36.2 | 38.4 |

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES & PERCEPTIONS

| | OVERALL (%) | CURRENT SMOKERS (%) | NON-SMOKERS (%) |
|---|-------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Adults who believed smoking causes: | | | |
| Stroke | 41.4 | 36.9 | 43.0 |
| Heart disease | 50.8 | 45.4 | 52.8 |
| Lung cancer | 82.8 | 78.0 | 84.5 |
| Adults who believed exposure to tobacco smoke causes: | | | |
| Heart disease in adults | 39.7 | 36.5 | 40.8 |
| Lung cancer in adults | 65.8 | 60.2 | 67.9 |
| Lung illnesses in children | 66.7 | 61.9 | 68.5 |

ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

| | OVERALL (%) | MEN (%) | WOMEN (%) |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------|-----------|
| Ever heard of electronic cigarettes | 48.5 | 59.1 | 37.7 |
| Ever used electronic cigarettes | 5.0 | 9.3 | 0.5 |
| Current user of electronic cigarettes | 0.9 | 1.6 | 0.1 |

¹ The percentage of manufactured cigarette smokers among current tobacco smokers. ² Includes current smokers and former smokers who have been abstinent for less than 12 months. ³ Current non-smokers. ⁴ Among those who visited a health care provider in past 12 months. ⁵ Among those who work outside of the home who usually work indoors or both indoors and outdoors. ⁶ Smoking occurs in the home at least monthly. ⁷ Among those who visited in the past 30 days. ⁸ Estimated China 2018 per capita GDP = 64,644 (Chinese yuan, CNY), provided by the National Bureau of Statistics of China. ⁹ Among those who noticed health warnings on cigarette packages in the past 30 days. [†] 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.

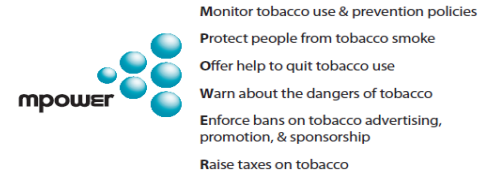
Technical assistance was provided by the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and RTI International. Resources and program support were provided by the *Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use* through the CDC Foundation, with grants from Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Additional resources and in-kind support were provided by the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China.

The findings and conclusions in this fact sheet are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

BACKGROUND

The Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) is a global standard protocol for systematically monitoring adult tobacco use (smoking and smokeless) and tracking key tobacco control indicators. This household survey collects data on persons 15 years of age and older. In China, China CDC conducted GATS in 2010 and in 2018. Both the surveys used similar multistage stratified cluster sample designs to produce nationally representative data. There were 13,354 interviews completed in the 2010 survey with an overall response rate of 96.0%. There were 19,376 interviews completed in the 2018 survey with an overall response rate of 91.5%. For additional information, refer to the GATS China 2010 and 2018 country fact sheets.

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's (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) to generate comparable data within and across countries. WHO has developed MPOWER, a package of six evidence-based demand reduction measures contained in the WHO FCTC.



KEY POLICY CHANGES

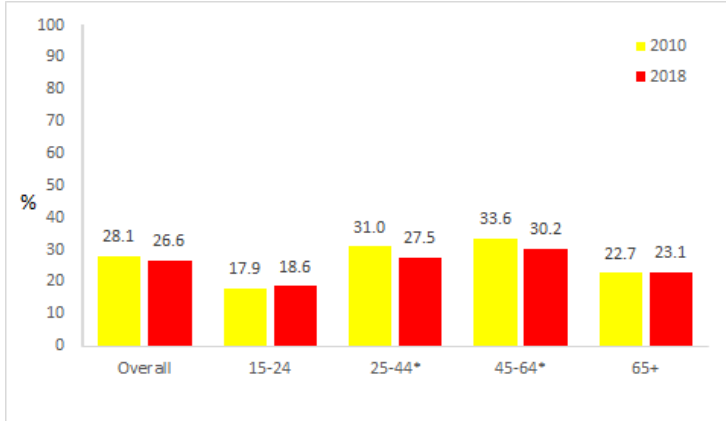
- In 2013, the General Office of the Central Committee of the Central Party of China and the General Office of the State Council jointly issued a directive for government officials to take the lead in making public places smoke-free.
- In 2014:
 - The Ministry of Education issued a directive for all schools and kindergartens to be 100% smoke-free and universities to ban smoking in all indoor buildings.
 - The National Health Commission issued a directive for all health facilities in China to become 100% smoke-free.
 - The Railway Safety Law was adopted which banned smoking in all carriages of high-speed trains with fines between 500 and 2000 Chinese yuan assessed to passengers for violations.
 - The central government started providing financial and technical support for establishing more than 400 cessation clinics nationwide and quit lines in all 31 provinces in mainland China.
- In 2015:
 - The Advertising Law was adopted which prohibited tobacco advertising in mass media, public places, public transportation, and on billboards.
 - The Ministry of Finance announced an increase in tobacco taxation, raising the ad valorem tax rate for wholesale cigarettes from 5% to 11%, and levying an additional ad valorem tax at 0.005 yuan per expenditure.
 - National Health City Standards were revised by the National Patriotic Health Campaign Committee, requiring health cities (districts) to implement smoke-free schools, government buildings, and health facilities.
- In 2016, the Philanthropy Law was adopted which prohibited marketing tobacco products through charitable donations.
- More than 20 cities—including Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Xi'an—have implemented smoke-free laws which covers approximately 10% of the population in China.
- Tobacco control has been integrated into several important national development plans such as the Healthy China 2030 Plan, the National Mid- and Long-Term Plan for NCD Prevention (2017-2025), and the 13th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development.

KEY FINDINGS

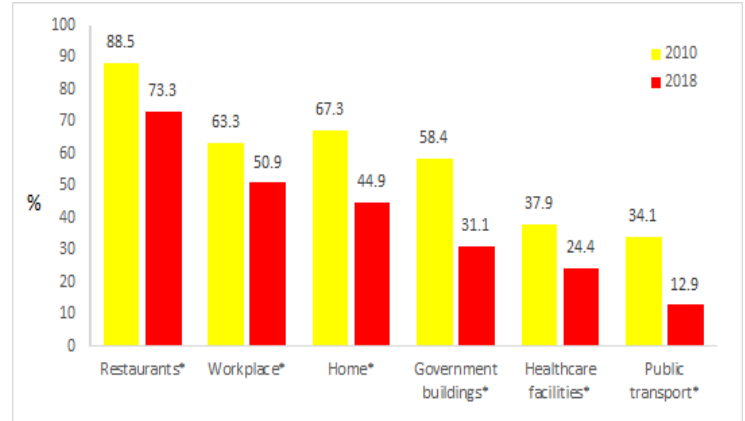
- From 2010 to 2018, overall current tobacco smoking decreased, however, the difference was not statistically significant (28.1% in 2010 and 26.6% in 2018). Current tobacco smoking did significantly decline among those aged 25-44 years (31.0% to 27.5%) and 45-64 years (33.6% to 30.2%).
- Secondhand smoke exposure in indoor places significantly declined from 2010 to 2018 in homes (67.3% to 44.9%), workplaces (63.3% to 50.9%), government buildings (58.4% to 31.1%), healthcare facilities (37.9% to 24.4%), restaurants (88.5% to 73.3%), and public transportation (34.1% to 12.9%).
- The percentage of smokers who made a quit attempt in the last 12 months significantly increased from 14.4% in 2010 to 19.8% in 2018.
- The percentage of smokers who were advised to quit by a healthcare provider significantly increased from 33.9% in 2010 to 46.4% in 2018.
- The quit rate among ever smokers significantly increased from 16.0% in 2010 to 20.1% in 2018.
- From 2010 to 2018, the percentage of adults who noticed anti-cigarette smoking information on the internet significantly increased (8.1% to 28.4%) while the percentage significantly decreased for noticing in newspapers or in magazines (21.8% to 17.1%) and on television (45.4% to 40.6%).
- The percentage of current smokers who thought about quitting after noticing health warning labels on cigarette packages did not change (36.4% in 2010 and 36.3% in 2018).
- The percentage of adults who noticed any cigarette advertisements significantly declined from 15.0% in 2010 to 10.7% in 2018.
- Although the median cost of 20 manufactured cigarettes significantly increased from 6.3 Chinese yuan in 2010 to 9.9 Chinese yuan in 2018, the median cost of 100 packs of manufactured cigarettes as a percentage of per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) significantly declined from 2.0% in 2010 to 1.5% in 2018, suggesting that cigarettes have become more affordable.



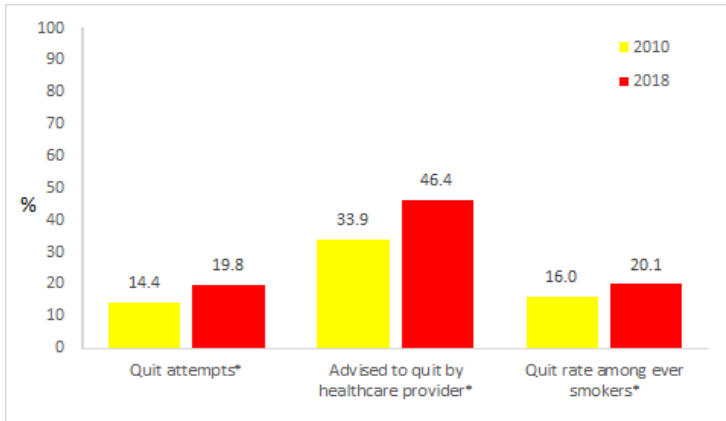
m Prevalence of current tobacco smoking by age, China 2010 and 2018



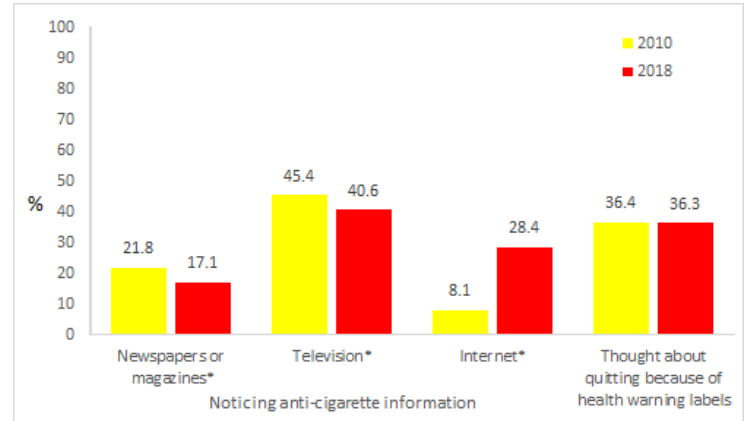
p Exposure to secondhand smoke inside various places^{1,2}, China 2010 and 2018



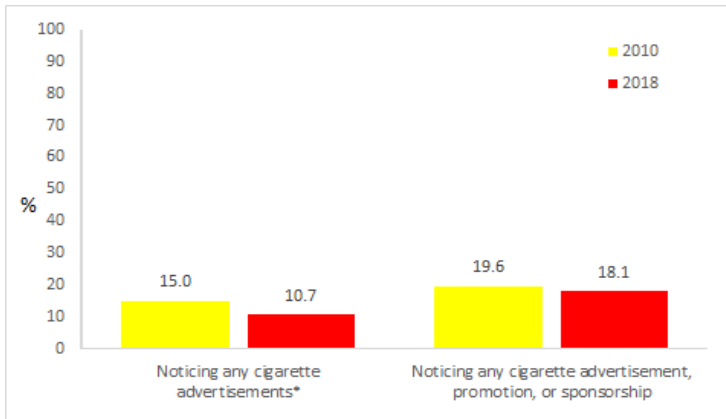
o Quit attempts and advice to quit by a healthcare provider among smokers in the past 12 months and the quit rate among ever smokers³, China 2010 and 2018



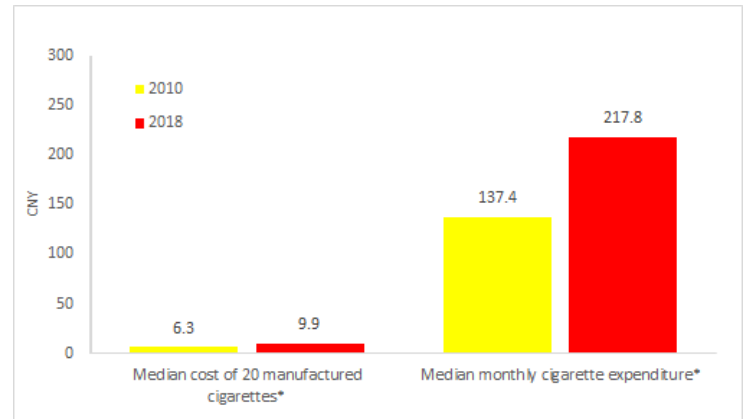
w Noticing anti-cigarette smoking information and effects of noticing health warning labels on cigarette packages⁴, China 2010 and 2018



e Noticing any cigarette advertisements and any advertisement, promotion, or sponsorship during the last 30 days, China 2010 and 2018



r Median cost of 20 manufactured cigarettes and median cigarette expenditure per month in Chinese yuan (CNY), China 2010⁵ and 2018



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. ¹ Secondhand smoke indicators calculated as follows: Homes: exposure to tobacco smoke at home at least monthly; Workplace: among those who work outside of the home who usually work indoors or both indoors and outdoors; Public places: among those who visited in the past 30 days. ² In 2018, the question about public transportation stated "not including taxis". ³ Former smokers (current non-smokers) among ever smokers. ⁴ Current smokers who thought about quitting because of health warning labels on cigarette packages among those who noticed the labels in the past 30 days. ⁵ GATS China 2010 cost data were adjusted for inflation for direct comparison to 2018 using the Inflation Rate for Average Consumer Prices from the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook Database. * Indicates comparison is statistically significant at p<0.05.

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