GLOBAL ADULT TOBACCO SURVEY
GATS-2 India 2016-17

OVERALL REDUCTION
From GATS-1 (2009-10) to GATS-2 (2016-17), the prevalence of tobacco use has reduced by six percentage points. The number of tobacco users has reduced by about 81 lakh.

The National Health Policy 2017 of Government of India has set the target of “relative reduction in prevalence of current tobacco use by 15% by 2020 and 30% by 2025”. GATS-2 shows a relative reduction of 17% in prevalence of current tobacco use since GATS-1.

28.6% of adults aged 15 and above (26.7 crore) use tobacco in any form.

19.9 crore adults in rural areas and 6.8 crore adults in urban areas use tobacco.

Every fifth adult (19.9 crore) uses smokeless tobacco and every tenth adult (10.0 crore) smokes tobacco.

3.2 crore adults resort to dual use of tobacco.

DECREASED TOBACCO USE AMONGST YOUTH
The prevalence of tobacco use among the young population aged 15-24 has reduced from 18.4% in GATS-1 to 12.4% in GATS-2, which is a 33% relative reduction.

The prevalence of tobacco use among minors aged 15-17 & adolescents aged 18-24 has a relative reduction of 54% and 28% respectively.

There is an increase of one year in the mean age at initiation of tobacco use from 17.9 years in GATS-1 to 18.9 years in GATS-2.
Khaini is the most commonly used tobacco product (used by 10.4 crore adults) followed by bidi (smoked by 7.2 crore adults).

Among men the three most commonly used tobacco products are khaini (8.5 crore), bidi (6.7 crore) and gutka (5.1 crore).

Among women the three most commonly used tobacco products are betel quid with tobacco (2.0 crore), tobacco for oral application (2.0 crore) and khaini (1.9 crore).

Smoking is largely a problem among men. However, use of smokeless tobacco is quite widespread among both men and women.

There is reduction in exposure to second-hand smoke from GATS-1 to GATS-2, but still a large proportion of adults are exposed

There is a reduction in the exposure to second-hand smoke at any public place like government buildings, health care facility, public transport/stations, and restaurants from 29% to 23%.

There is a reduction in the exposure to second-hand smoke at home from 52% to 39%.

Three in every 10 adults who work indoors are exposed to second-hand smoke at their workplace; with no change from GATS-1.

Increased demand to quit tobacco use

55% of smokers and 50% of smokeless tobacco users are planning or thinking of quitting tobacco use.

Increased expenditure on tobacco use

The average expenditure incurred on last purchase of cigarette, bidi and smokeless tobacco is ₹30.0, ₹12.5 and ₹12.8 respectively. The expenditure on cigarette has tripled and that on bidi and smokeless tobacco has doubled since GATS-1.

Increase in awareness of ill-effects of tobacco use

Percentage of adults who believed second-hand smoke causes serious illness among non-smoker has increased from 83% to 92%.

Percentage of adults who believed that use of smokeless tobacco causes serious illness has increased from 89% to 96%.

About GATS

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 household survey of persons aged 15 and above conducted in all 30 states of India and two Union Territories. The first round of GATS was conducted in 2009-10. The second round of GATS was conducted in 2016-2017 by Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. A multi-stage sample design was used. From each of the sampled households, one household member aged 15 and above was randomly selected for individual interview. In all of India, a total of 74,037 individuals were interviewed during August 2016 to February 2017.