

4.3.1 TOBACCO USE

The respondents aged between 15-17 years were asked if they had ever tried or experimented with any amount of smoked or smokeless tobacco.

KEY FINDINGS

- Current daily tobacco use in any form among adolescents was 3.1% and the mean age of initiation of tobacco use was at 14.2 years.
- **85.2%** thought that inhaling smoke from other people's tobacco smoking can cause harm.

Either smoked or smokeless tobacco use

Table 4.3.1.1 Tobacco use of any form among adolescents by area of residence and gender (Percentage)

15 - 17 years	Urban	Rural	Boys	Girls	Total
Never user	94.4	92.3	88.1	98.3	93.0
Ever user/experimented	5.6	7.7	11.9	1.7	7.0

93.0% of adolescents had never used tobacco and 7.0% reported ever use or experimented with tobacco with a higher percentage from rural areas (7.7%) and among boys (11.9%). (Table 4.3.1.1 and annexure table 4.3.1.1a)

Smoked tobacco use

Table 4.3.1.2 Smoked tobacco use among adolescents by area of residence and gender (Percentage)

15 - 17 years	Urban	Rural	Boys	Girls	Total
Never user	96.4	96.5	93.6	99.5	96.5
Ever user/experimented	3.6	3.5	6.4	0.5	3.5

96.5% of adolescents had never smoked tobacco, while 6.4% of boys reported ever use or experimented with smoked tobacco. (Table 4.3.1.2 and annexure table 4.3.1.2a)

Smokeless tobacco use

Table 4.3.1.3 Smokeless tobacco use among adolescents by area of residence and gender (Percentage)

15 - 17 years	Urban	Rural	Boys	Girls	Total
Never user	96.7	94.3	91.8	98.6	95.0
Ever user/experimented	3.3	5.7	8.2	1.4	5.0

According to the survey, 5.0% of adolescents were ever users or experimented with smokeless tobacco, 5.7% from rural areas and 8.2% among boys. (*Table 4.3.1.3 and annexure table 4.3.1.3a*)

Current daily tobacco use

Table 4.3.1.4 Current daily tobacco use among adolescents by area of residence and gender (Percentage)

15 – 17 years	Urban	Rural	Boys	Girls	Total
Current daily tobacco use (any form)	1.9	3.6	5.5	0.4	3.1
Only smoked tobacco	0.01	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.2
Only smokeless tobacco	1.8	3.2	5.1	0.2	2.8
Both smoked and smokeless tobacco	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

The prevalence of current tobacco use daily among adolescents was 3.1%, rural areas (3.6%) and among boys (5.5%). Those who reported consuming both forms of tobacco (smoked and smokeless) were 0.2%. The prevalence of only smokeless tobacco use was 2.8% and only smoked tobacco use was 0.2%. (*Table 4.3.1.4 and annexure table 4.3.1.4a*)

Type of tobacco product used

Manufactured cigarettes (89.2%) and gutka (79.7%) were the preferred types of smoked and smokeless tobacco products that were used respectively among current daily tobacco users. None reported the use of pipes, hookah/shisha, tuibur, tobacco snuff by nose and mouth. (*Annexure table 4.3.1.5a*)

Perception that other people's tobacco smoking can cause harm

Table 4.3.1.5 Adolescents who thought that inhaling smoke from other people's tobacco smoking can cause harm by area of residence and gender (Percentage)

15 – 17 years	Urban	Rural	Boys	Girls	Total
Thought that inhaling smoke from other people's tobacco smoking can cause harm	86.9	84.4	86.6	83.6	85.2

85.2% of adolescents thought that inhaling smoke from other people's tobacco smoking can cause harm. (*Table 4.3.1.5 and annexure table 4.3.1.6a*)

Age of initiation of tobacco

The mean age of initiation of tobacco use in adolescents who had ever tried/experimented tobacco was at 14.2 years. It was observed that, adolescents from the rural areas (13.9 years) initiated the use of tobacco

at an early age when compared to those from the urban areas (15.1 years). Across gender, the mean age of initiation was 14.2 years in boys and 14.4 years in girls. (*Annexure table 4.3.1.7a*)

Attempted to quit tobacco use

It was observed that, 43.1% attempted to quit using tobacco among those who ever tried or experimented with tobacco in any form (45.0% boys), while 39.6% and 43.1% attempted to quit smoked (41.9% boys) and smokeless tobacco (45.5% boys) respectively, while none of the girls reported any attempts to quit. (*Annexure table 4.3.1.8a*)

DISCLAIMER

“The second round of Global Adult Tobacco Survey [GATS-2] - India was conducted in 2016-17 in the age-group 15 years and above involving 74,037 individuals [34.5% urban and 65.5% rural distribution] adopting a multistage cluster sampling state wise.

Whereas, the National Noncommunicable Diseases Monitoring Survey (NNMS) was conducted during the year 2017-18 in the age-group 15-17 and 18-69 years involving 12000 households [equal rural and urban distribution] adopting a multi-stage cluster sampling nationally.

Therefore, there are expected few differences observed in the results related to use of tobacco between NNMS and the GATS-2 (India). Upon expert review, it is stated that these could be related to differences in study design, sampling strategy, coverage, age groups selected, weighting procedures and the questionnaires adopted.”

This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Under Secretary to the Government of India

Disclaimer approved: File No. Z.21020/39/2019-TC, Government of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Tobacco Control Division), dated on 26th August, 2020.