

## 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 South Africa. 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:

## 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 South Africa, GATS was conducted in 2021 as a household survey of persons 15 years of age or older by South African Medical Research Council, under the coordination of the National Department of Health. A multi-stage, geographically clustered sample design was used to produce nationally representative data. A total of 7,245 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 6,311 completed individual interviews with an overall response rate of 91.5%.

## GATS Highlights

### TOBACCO USE

- 29.4% overall (12.7 million adults), 41.7% of men, and 17.9% of women currently used tobacco.
- 25.8% overall (11.1 million adults), 41.2% of men, and 11.5% of women currently smoked tobacco.
- 4.3% overall (1.8 million adults), 1.1% of men, and 7.2% of women currently used smokeless tobacco.

### CESSATION

- 65.7% of current smokers planned to or were thinking about quitting smoking.
- 40.5% made a quit attempt in the past 12 months.
- 42.9% of smokers who visited a healthcare provider in the past 12 months were advised to quit smoking.

### SECONDHAND SMOKE

- 11.2% of adults who worked indoors (1.2 million adults) were exposed to tobacco smoke in enclosed areas at their workplace.
- 18.0% of adults (7.7 million adults) were exposed to tobacco smoke inside their homes.
- 10.8% of adults (1.1 million adults) were exposed to tobacco smoke when visiting restaurants.

### ECONOMICS

- The median amount spent on 20 manufactured cigarettes was 24.7 (South African Rand).
- The median monthly expenditure on manufactured cigarettes was 263.1 (South African Rand).

### MEDIA

- 30.5% of adults noticed anti-cigarette smoking information on the television or radio.
- 22.3% of adults noticed tobacco products advertising or promotions in stores where tobacco is sold.
- 29.9% of adults noticed any tobacco advertisements, promotions, or sporting event sponsorship.

### KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES & PERCEPTIONS

- 92.9% of adults believed smoking causes serious illness.
- 92.9% of adults believed breathing other peoples' smoke causes serious illness in non-smokers.
- 88.4% support ban on smoking in indoor workplaces and public places
- 73.0% of adults support

