

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health is pleased to share with you the information below.

Statement from CDC's Office on Smoking and Health

Statement Regarding First Release of Global Adult Tobacco Survey Results by Greece

On January 27, 2014, Greece released its Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) results. Many countries conduct surveys to monitor adult tobacco use, but until recently, no one standard global survey for adults has consistently tracked tobacco use, exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke, and tobacco control measures. A fact sheet summarizing the results from Greece can be found at the CDC Global Tobacco [website](#).

In Greece, GATS surveyed adults 15 years of age or older. Highlights from the 2013 GATS Greece survey are as follows:

- **51.2% of men, 25.7% of women, and 38.2% overall (3.5 million adults) currently smoked tobacco.**
- **72.2% of daily smokers smoke within 30 minutes after waking up, showing a high dependency on tobacco.**
- **Only 2 in 10 smokers made a quit attempt in the last 12 months.**
- **Despite a law prohibiting smoking inside public places,**
- **52.3% of adults who worked indoors (1.6 million adults) were exposed to tobacco smoke at the workplace; and**
- **72.2% of adults (3.3 million adults) were exposed to tobacco smoke when visiting restaurants.**
- **84.1% of non-smokers support the law prohibiting smoking inside of restaurants.**

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of premature disease and death in the world and kills up to half of those who use it. In the 20th century, the tobacco epidemic killed 100 million people worldwide; during the 21st century, it is estimated that it could kill one billion. Containing this epidemic is one of the most important public health priorities of our time.

To effectively combat the tobacco epidemic, CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO) recommend MPOWER, a set of six proven strategies: monitoring tobacco use and prevention policies; protecting people from tobacco smoke; offering help to quit tobacco use; warning about the dangers of tobacco; enforcing bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship; and raising taxes on tobacco. Monitoring the tobacco epidemic is a key step in managing it. CDC oversees GATS, which is designed to produce national and sub-national estimates on tobacco use, exposure to secondhand smoke, and quit attempts among adults. GATS also indirectly measures the impact of tobacco control and prevention initiatives.

Greece is the first country to release results in the third phase of GATS implementation. Other countries participating in the third phase of GATS include: Cameroon, Colombia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and Uganda. From 2011-2013, nine countries participated in the second phase of GATS including: Argentina, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Panama, Qatar, Romania, Thailand (repeat), and Turkey (repeat). From

2008-2010, 14 countries participated in the first phase of GATS: Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Mexico, Philippines, Poland, Russian Federation, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay and Vietnam. As with the other participating countries, results from GATS will assist Greece in translating data into action through improved policies and programs. GATS is a nationally representative household survey of all non-institutionalized men and women aged 15 years and older using a standard and consistent protocol. Survey data are collected electronically during in-person interviews.

In Greece, GATS was conducted by the National School of Public Health, Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology of the University of Thessaly, and MRB Hellas. The survey had the support of the Regional Office for Europe (EURO) of the World Health Organization.

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