

2008 eurobarometer survey on tobacco key messages

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The National Survey on Tobacco Use: Understanding the Scope of Tobacco Use in America

The National Survey on Tobacco Use (NTS) is a comprehensive survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor tobacco use trends and patterns in the United States. It provides valuable data on the prevalence, frequency, and intensity of tobacco use among different population groups.

Results of the Smoking Survey

According to the NTS, the national rate of tobacco use among adults aged 18 and older is approximately 14%. This translates to approximately 34.1 million adult smokers. Of these, 23.6 million smoke cigarettes, while 10.5 million use other tobacco products such as e-cigarettes, cigars, or smokeless tobacco.

Important Statistics Related to Tobacco Use

- **Prevalence of Tobacco Use:** 14% of American adults use tobacco products.
- **Cigarette Use:** 13.7% of Americans aged 18+ smoke cigarettes.
- **Prevalence of E-cigarette Use:** 3.2% of adults use e-cigarettes.

- **Smoking-Related Deaths:** Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States, causing an estimated 480,000 deaths annually.
- **Economic Burden of Smoking:** Smoking costs the U.S. economy approximately \$300 billion per year in healthcare expenditures and lost productivity.

The Social Climate Survey of Tobacco Control

The Social Climate Survey of Tobacco Control (SCS) is a biennial survey conducted by the CDC to assess public attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors related to tobacco control policies and measures. It provides insights into social norms and community support for tobacco control efforts.

Objectives of the Global Adult Tobacco Survey

The Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) is a standardized survey conducted in over 160 countries to gather comparable data on tobacco use, exposure to tobacco smoke, and tobacco control policies. Its objectives include:

- Monitoring tobacco use prevalence and trends
- Identifying factors associated with tobacco use
- Evaluating the effectiveness of tobacco control interventions
- Informing policy development and decision-making

Tobacco: A Threat to the Environment

Tobacco cultivation and consumption have a significant impact on the environment. Tobacco farming requires the use of pesticides and fertilizers, which can pollute water sources and harm wildlife. In addition, tobacco products contain chemicals that are released into the environment when they are smoked or disposed of.

The Societal Impact of Tobacco

Tobacco use has numerous negative consequences on individuals and society as a whole. It increases healthcare costs, reduces productivity, exacerbates poverty, and contributes to social inequalities. Additionally, secondhand smoke exposure harms

non-smokers, particularly children.

Tobacco Use by State and Country

West Virginia has the highest percentage of adult smokers (24.3%), while Utah has the lowest (8.7%). China is the country with the highest number of smokers worldwide (315 million).

Health Implications of Tobacco Use

- **Life expectancy of a female smoker:** 6 years shorter than a non-smoker
- **Tobacco-related diseases:** Lung cancer, heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

Facts About Tobacco Use

- 5.6 million Americans die prematurely from tobacco-related illnesses.
- Tobacco contains nicotine, a highly addictive substance.
- The majority of smokers start using tobacco before the age of 18.
- Tobacco use is a major risk factor for chronic diseases such as cancer and heart disease.
- Quitting smoking can improve health and longevity.

Economic Importance of Tobacco

Tobacco is a significant contributor to the economy, generating billions of dollars in tax revenue annually. However, the economic costs of tobacco use, such as healthcare expenditures and lost productivity, far outweigh its economic benefits.

Reasons People Begin to Use Tobacco

- **Curiosity:** Peer pressure and societal influences
- **Addiction:** Nicotine's addictive nature makes it difficult to quit
- **Stress relief:** Misperception that smoking can reduce stress

- **Social acceptability:** Smoking is still seen as socially acceptable in some settings
- **Weight control:** Tobacco use can suppress appetite

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