

Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) 2016-17 revealed decreased prevalence of tobacco among young India

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Recently revealed Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) 2016-17, India has witnessed an overall decline in the number of tobacco users in past seven years, especially among the age group of 15 to 24.

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GATS 2016-17 was conducted by the Union health ministry with technical assistance from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), US. A nationally representative household survey of persons aged 15 and above, it was conducted in all 30 states of India and two union territories. A total of 74,037 individuals were interviewed between August 2016 and February 2017.

The survey revealed that the prevalence of tobacco use has decreased by six per cent from 34.6 per cent in GATS 1 in 2009-10 to 28.6 per cent in GATS 2 in 2016-17.

Interestingly, the prevalence of tobacco use among the younger population aged 15-24 has reduced from 18.4 per cent in GATS 1 to 12.4 per cent in GATS 2.

While the number of tobacco users has reduced by about 81 lakh in last seven year, tobacco products have also gradually become unaffordable. The average expenditure incurred on last purchase of cigarette, bidi and smokeless tobacco is Rs 30, Rs 12.5 and Rs 12.8 respectively. The expenditure on cigarette has tripled and that on bidi and smokeless tobacco has doubled since GATS 1, the survey found.

