



World Health  
Organization



Azərbaycan Respublikası  
Səhiyyə Nazirliyi



İCTİMAİ SƏHIYYƏ VƏ İSLAHATLAR MƏRKƏZİ

# GLOBAL YOUTH TOBACCO SURVEY (GYTS)

\* \* \*

COUNTRY REPORT, AZERBAIJAN  
2016

# CONTENTS

---

<b>Foreword</b> .....	4
<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	5
<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	6
<b>1. Introduction</b> .....	8
1.1 Country Demographics.....	8
1.2 WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and MPOWER.....	9
1.3 Purpose and Rationale.....	10
1.4 Current State of Policy.....	11
1.5 Other Tobacco Surveys.....	12
1.6 Country Specific Objectives.....	13
<b>2. Methodology</b> .....	14
2.1 Questionnaire.....	14
2.2 Sampling Design.....	14
2.3 Data Collection.....	14
2.4 Data Analysis.....	14
<b>3. Results</b> .....	16
3.1 Tobacco Use.....	16
3.2 Cessation.....	18
3.3 Secondhand Smoke.....	19
3.4 Access and Availability.....	20
3.5 Media.....	22
3.6 Knowledge and Attitudes.....	24
<b>4. Discussion</b> .....	25
4.1 Discussion of Survey Findings.....	25
4.2 Comparison to Previous Tobacco Surveys.....	28
4.3 Relevance to FCTC.....	29
4.4 Relevance to Country.....	30
<b>5. Recommendations</b> .....	32
<b>References</b> .....	33
<b>Appendix A: Questionnaire</b> .....	35

## TABLES

---

<b>Table 1:</b> Sample sizes and response rates, by region (unweighted) – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016. ....	155
<b>Table 2:</b> Detailed tobacco use status among students 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016. ....	166
<b>Table 3:</b> Cigarettes smoked per day among current cigarette smokers 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016. ....	177
<b>Table 4:</b> Age at cigarette smoking initiation among ever cigarette smokers 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016. ....	177
<b>Table 5:</b> Current smokers 13-15 years old who are showing signs of smoking dependence, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016. ....	177
<b>Table 6:</b> Smoking tobacco cessation indicators among current smokers 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016. ....	188
<b>Table 7:</b> Students 13-15 years old who were exposed to tobacco smoke during the past 30 days, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016. ....	199
<b>Table 8:</b> Source for obtaining cigarettes among cigarette smokers 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016. ....	20
<b>Table 9:</b> Current cigarette smokers 13-15 years old who were not prevented from buying cigarettes because of their age, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016. ....	20
<b>Table 10:</b> Unit of cigarette purchase among current cigarette smokers 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016. ....	20
<b>Table 11:</b> Cost of cigarettes among students 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016. ....	21
<b>Table 12:</b> Noticing anti-tobacco information among students 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016. ....	22
<b>Table 13:</b> Noticing of health warnings on cigarette packages among current and never smokers 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016. ....	22
<b>Table 14:</b> Noticing tobacco marketing among students 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016. ....	23
<b>Table 15:</b> Ownership and receptivity to tobacco marketing among students 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016. ....	23
<b>Table 16:</b> Knowledge and attitudes towards smoking cessation and social smoking among students 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016. ....	244
<b>Table 17:</b> Knowledge and attitudes towards secondhand smoke among students 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016. ....	244

## FOREWORD

---

This publication is the report on implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> GYTS research in Azerbaijan. As known, tobacco is a major preventable cause of premature death and disease worldwide. Tobacco smoke is responsible for main chronic noncommunicable diseases like heart disease and stroke, lung cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that tobacco kills a half of people who use it, on average 15 years prematurely. Today, tobacco use causes 1 in 10 deaths among adults worldwide – about six million people a year, and is a risk factor for six of the eight leading causes of death in the world. If current trends persist, tobacco will kill more than 8 million people worldwide each year by the year 2030, with 80% of these premature deaths in low- and middle-income countries. By the end of this century, tobacco may kill a billion people or more unless urgent action is taken.

In 1999 development of the Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS), includes the collection of data through the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS), the Global School Professionals Survey (GSPS), the Global Health Professions Students Survey (GHPSS) and the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS), was the important steps to enhance the capacity of countries to design, implement, and evaluate their national comprehensive tobacco control programs and to monitor the key articles of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. The GYTS focuses on youth aged 13-15 and collects information in schools. Most people begin using tobacco before the age of 18. Starting to smoke at younger ages increases the risk of death from a smoking-related cause, and lowers the age at which death is likely to occur. People who start smoking early in life will often find it difficult to quit smoking. Recent trends indicate rising smoking prevalence rates among children and adolescents and earlier age of initiation. The establishment and operation of school-based survey allows collecting and disseminating information on prevalence of tobacco use and consumption, media and advertising coverage, exposure to secondhand smoke, access and availability of tobacco products, cessation of tobacco use, and school curricula that incorporate issues related to tobacco use.

Tobacco control requires an efficient and systematic surveillance mechanism to monitor trends in its consumption. Conducting of the GYTS in Azerbaijan shows readiness among government and society to support national tobacco control movement. Implementation of the GYTS would help to better implement of the “National NCD Strategy and Operational Plan 2015-2020”, including measures on tobacco control approved by the President of Azerbaijan. The survey results also can be utilized within school health programs designed to prevent and reduce tobacco use among teens, especially in frame of the Azerbaijan “Healthy Education – Healthy Nation” project of the Ministry of Education, launched in 2014.

This report sets out the statistics and evidence needed to launch a more forceful response to the growing threat posed by tobacco epidemic. The report gives particular attention to the rationale for Azerbaijan’s participation in the GYTS, current state of tobacco control policy, other tobacco surveys in Azerbaijan, country specific objectives, relevance to country, proposed interventions and recommendations. The warning of the tobacco epidemic remains stark. Nevertheless, these threats can effectively controlled. Moreover, we can turn the tide.

Dr. Jeyhun Mammadov  
Director, Public Health and Reforms Center,  
Ministry of Health of Azerbaijan Republic

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

---

Azerbaijan acknowledges the support of the World Health Organization and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for providing technical and financial support to develop and print this document.

This report has been prepared by research coordinator Dr. Tofiq Musayev, Head of Population Health Department Public Health and Reforms Center of the Ministry of Health of Azerbaijan Republic and is based on the 2016 Global Youth Tobacco Survey findings in Azerbaijan.

Especially thanks to Dr. Jeyhun Mammadov, Director of the Public Health and Reforms Center (PHRC) of the Ministry of Health of Azerbaijan Republic for his guidance, support and encouragement, to Samir Mehdiyev, Manager of Monitoring and Analysis Department of PHRC for contribution on the survey.

Further acknowledgement goes to the Ministries of Health and Education for their assistance, support and collaboration in the course of this study.

This research would not have been possible without support and assistance from the all people in any event involved to the GYTS.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

---

**Background:** Tobacco is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality globally. In November 2005, Azerbaijan ratified the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). Therefore, like an each party country has agreed to develop, implement and evaluate effective tobacco control programs to measure progress in reaching the goals of the WHO FCTC. The Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) provides data on youth tobacco use for development and implement of tobacco control programs. Periodically conducting tobacco surveys, especially adolescent based second GYTS in Azerbaijan supports country fights against tobacco epidemic by monitoring specific data on key tobacco indicators, including prevalence, knowledge, and behavior. There is therefore need to identify relevant factors associated with smoking among adolescents in order to better develop public health interventions aimed at preventing smoking. Findings from the GYTS conducted in capital, seven cities and eleven districts of Azerbaijan in 2016 are reported in this paper. We examined the prevalence of smoking among middle-school students in Azerbaijan using the second GYTS and compared it's with previous results. It is important to base policy decisions on valid and reliable evidence from population-based, representative studies that are periodically repeated to enable policy makers to monitor the results of their interventions and to appropriately tailor anti-tobacco activities towards future needs.

**Methodology:** The GYTS is a school-based survey that uses a standardized methodology for sampling, questionnaire construction, field procedures, and data management that was implemented in Azerbaijan by the Public Health and Reforms Center with assistance, support and collaboration of Ministries of Health and Education. Data were collected using the GYTS self-administered anonymous pre-tested and modified questionnaire, which was distributed by specifically trained field workers to a nationally representative sample of middle-school students aged 13–15 years (through randomly selected schools and classes), randomly selected through a two-stage cluster sample design. Data processing and statistical analyses were performed at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Total 2122 students age 13 to 15 years in 25 schools and 121 classrooms participated in the 2016 Azerbaijan GYTS. The grades that were sampled for the 2016 GYTS were 8, 9, and 10. Data from this survey can be used as baseline measures for evaluation of the tobacco control programs implemented by stakeholders and policy makers.

**Results:** Altogether 2,220 students participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Azerbaijan GYTS in 2016 of which 2,122 were ages 13 to 15 years, and males and females rates were approximately equal (1062 boys, 1058 girls, two students not noted their sex). The 2<sup>nd</sup> GYTS was conducted in 2016 indicated that 10.3% of students in Azerbaijan had ever smoked cigarettes (in 2011 GYTS – 10.6%), with significantly higher rates among boys - 15.1%. Current tobacco use rates were raised - 7.3% (6.8% in 2011), at 11.6% for boys and 2.3% for girls, overall, 2.9% of students currently smoked cigarettes (2.7% in 2011). Smoking at home rates was 17.7% in 2011, however in 2016 have decline to 13.4%. The prevalence of currently daily smoking cigarettes was 1% like in 2011. In addition, 32.6% of ever smokers (generally boys) reported that they began smoking before the age of 10 years old (36.6% in 2011) and 8% of never smokers (8.7% in 2011) reported being susceptible to initiate smoking in the next year. The existence of wrong perception of school students about smoking habits was also evident from the findings. 19.0% of adolescents think young people who smoke have more friends (18.7% in 2011) and 29.2% think they looks more attractive (19.1% in 2011). In 2016, among smokers, approximately 64.8% bought their cigarettes in a store with no restriction for their age (59.1% in 2011), and 5.9% (against 12.2% in 2011) had ever been offered free tobacco product, despite the law prohibiting this. 8.7% of students has an object with a cigarette brand

logo on it (10.7% in 2011). Regarding environmental tobacco smoke, 28.8% of students participated in the 2016 survey live in homes where others smoke (27.1% in 2011), and 40.8% of students are exposed to smoke in enclosed public places (27.3% in 2011). In 2016, 82.8% of students think that smoking should be banned inside enclosed public places (94.0% in 2011) and 81.8% of students think smoke from others is harmful to them (85.9% in 2011). In 2016, 42.6% of students have one or more parents who smoke (40.5% in 2011). As reported in 2016, 66.0% of students were taught in school about the dangers of tobacco use in the past year (65.5% in 2011). Perhaps, as a consequence, 65% of current smokers tried to stop smoking in the past year (53.7% in 2011). Findings also indicate exposure to tobacco advertising and promotions for students. In 2016, 62.3% of students saw or heard anti-tobacco media messages (72.3% in 2011); however, 68.9% saw anyone using tobacco on television, videos, or movies (61.0% in 2011). In 2016, 1 in 3 of students think tobacco point-of-sale displays motivate young people to smoke (in 2011, this question has not been included).

**Conclusion:** The results of the 2<sup>nd</sup> GYTS show that the prevalence of smoking in middle-school children still is high in Azerbaijan. Smoking among young people constitutes a significant problem that is does not improve in the absence of sufficient comprehensive efforts focused on strict anti-smoking legislation, policies and tobacco control interventions targeting children at a young age. The factors reported in the current study should be considered in the design of public health, education and other areas interventions aimed to reduce adolescent tobacco smoking, and the data in this report can be used as baseline measures for future evaluation efforts. A combination of school and home based antismoking interventions may be effective in controlling adolescent smoking in Azerbaijan. At this time, tobacco control efforts in country need to focus on enhancing existing legislation to include enforcement or develop of existing provisions and inclusion of new laws and regulations, especially in frame of the “National NCD Strategy and Operational Plan 2015-2020”. Most of these provisions are required of all countries, such as Azerbaijan, that have ratified the WHO FCTC. The key for Azerbaijan is to implement and enforce the provisions on indirect tobacco advertising and promotion, smoke-free public places and exposure to second hand smoke, selling tobacco to youths under 18 years of age and effective health warnings and messages on tobacco product packaging and labelling, service for tobacco dependence treatment and involving of parents and teachers to tobacco control programs, and to use the data from the GYTS to monitor progress toward achieving the goals of the WHO FCTC. When these goals are met, tobacco consumption and exposure in Azerbaijan will have declined substantially. Results from this GYTS study indicate that Azerbaijan faces a number of serious challenges in preventing and controlling tobacco. GYTS data can enhance a country’s capacity to monitor tobacco use among youth, guide development, implementation, and evaluation of national tobacco prevention and control programme; and allow comparison of tobacco-related data at national, regional and global levels.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

---

Tobacco use is the leading global cause of preventable death. WHO attributes nearly 6 million deaths a year to tobacco. That figure is expected to rise to more than 8 million deaths a year by 2030.<sup>1</sup> Most people begin using tobacco before the age of 18.<sup>2</sup>

The Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) was developed by the Tobacco Free Initiative (TFI), World Health Organization (WHO) and the Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in collaboration with a range of countries representing the six WHO regions to present comprehensive tobacco prevention and control information on young people. The GYTS provides a global standard to systematically monitor youth tobacco use and track key tobacco control indicators. GYTS is a nationally representative school-based survey of students 13-15 years of age, using a consistent and standard protocol across countries. It is intended to generate comparable data within and across countries.

## 1.1 Country Demographics

Azerbaijan is a Member State of the WHO Euro Region and is considered an upper middle-income country.

Historically, Azerbaijan extended 210,000 square kilometers from the Caucasus Mountains in Asia to the mountainous area south and southeast of Lake Urmiya. The land area occupied by Azerbaijan has long been subject to invasion. The 19th and 20th centuries were particularly difficult for Azerbaijan and its people. The Gulistan Agreement of 1813 and the Turkmenchay Agreement of 1828 ended Azerbaijan's independence. Azerbaijan was divided into two parts: southern Azerbaijan, which became part of Iran, and northern Azerbaijan, which became part of Russia.

The first democratic republic in the east was founded in Azerbaijan on May 28, 1918. Its territory extended 114,000 square kilometers and the borders were 3,504 kilometers in length. On April 28, 1920, this territory was occupied by Soviet Russia. In 1924, the regions of Goyca and Zangazur became part of Armenia, and the Autonomous region was established in mountainous Garabagh. The Republic of Azerbaijan regained its independence on October 18, 1991. At present, the area of the Republic of Azerbaijan is 86.6 thousand square kilometers (in the framework of the borders adopted by the United Nations).

Located to the south of the Caucasus mountain range and situated on the western Caspian coast, Azerbaijan borders with Iran (765 km) and Turkey (15 km) on the south, Russia (390 km) on the north, Georgia (480 km) on the north-west and Armenia (1007 km) on the west. Azerbaijan has sea borders with four countries: Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Iran. The capital of Azerbaijan is the ancient city of Baku, which is located on a harbor leading to the Caspian Sea. On the beginning of 2015, Azerbaijan has a population in excess of 9.5 million, with 47 percent residing in rural areas and nearly equal quantity of men and women.

Azerbaijan was among the world's leading oil producers in the late 19th century. Since independence in 1991, oil and gas discoveries have given Azerbaijan new means of combating poverty and developing into a diversified, sustainable middle-income economy in the coming years.

It became evidently necessary in Azerbaijan to transform public-political and socio-economic systems for the purposes of the formation of an independent national economy system based on the democratic state system as well as free market relations. The government had to resolve such important tasks as the strengthening of national independence; the establishment of a legal and secular state; transition to a market economy system; provision of the territorial integrity; improvement of the safety and socio-economic prosperity of the population; and many others.

Azerbaijan's challenge is to use all available resources to stimulate sustainable broad-based growth and ensure the welfare of current and future generations. The economic transition has been complicated by Armenian military aggression against Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh, the region of the Azerbaijan Republic. 20% of the territory of Azerbaijan was and still is under the occupation of Armenian military forces. The majority of the one million refugees from Armenia and internally displaced persons from the occupied regions of Azerbaijan are still forced to live in unbearable conditions in refugee camps, key regional trade and transport links are under disruption.

Within a short historical period after the independence and even in spite of the unfavorable starting conditions, significant results were achieved in the fields of socio-economic development and integration into the world economic system. As the result of these changes, a country has achieved a certain kind of macroeconomic stability and moved further on to dynamic economic development starting 1996. The political situation in Azerbaijan is stable. On the regional level, multilateral relations have continued to strengthen as Azerbaijan develops its transit corridor role between Asia and Europe.

## **1.2 WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and MPOWER**

In response to the globalization of the tobacco epidemic, the 191 Member States of the World Health Organization unanimously adopted the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) at the 56<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly in May 2003.<sup>3</sup> The FCTC is the world's first public health treaty on tobacco control. It is the driving force behind, and blueprint for, the global response to the pandemic of tobacco-induced deaths and diseases. The treaty embodies a coordinated, effective, and urgent action plan to curb tobacco consumption and lays out cost-effective tobacco control strategies for public policies such as banning direct and indirect tobacco advertising, increasing tobacco tax and price, promoting smoke-free public places and workplaces, displaying prominent health messages on tobacco packaging, and tobacco surveillance, research, and exchange of information.

In November 2005, Azerbaijan ratified the WHO FCTC. Periodical reporting are important tools for monitoring and evaluation of implementation WHO FCTC in countries. Recently Azerbaijan finalized its latest report on implementation of the WHO FCTC.<sup>4</sup>

To help countries fulfill their WHO FCTC obligations, in 2008 WHO introduced MPOWER, a technical package of six evidence-based tobacco control measures that are proven to reduce tobacco use and save lives:<sup>5</sup>

- Monitor tobacco use and prevention policies
- Protect people from tobacco smoke
- Offer help to quit tobacco use
- Warn about the dangers of tobacco

- Enforce bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship
- Raise taxes on tobacco

The GYTS supports WHO MPOWER by monitoring country-specific data on key tobacco indicators, including prevalence, knowledge, and behavior.

### 1.3 Purpose and Rationale

GYTS enhances countries' capacity to monitor youth tobacco consumption and tobacco use initiation, guide national tobacco prevention and control programs, and facilitate comparison of tobacco-related data at the national, regional, and global levels. Results from the GYTS are also useful for documenting the changes in different variables of tobacco control measures for monitoring the implementation of different provisions of the tobacco control law and the relevant Articles of the WHO Framework Convention.

The rationale for Azerbaijan's participation in the GYTS includes the following:

- First of all, there is urgent need to comparable analysis of data from recent GYTS 2016 with first GYTS conducted in 2011.
- The first GYTS<sup>6</sup> was conducted in 2011 indicated that over 1 in 10 students in Azerbaijan had ever smoked cigarettes, with significantly higher rates among boys. Current tobacco use rates were lower - 6.8%, at 11.4% for boys and 2.1% for girls, with 17.7% usually smoking at home. The prevalence of currently daily smoking cigarettes was 1.1%. In addition, close to 1 in 3 of ever smokers (generally boys) reported that they began smoking before the age of 10 years old and almost 1 in 10 never smokers reported being susceptible to initiate smoking in the next year. Up to 3 in 10 adolescents think boys and over 1 in 10 think girls who smoke have more friends and are more attractive. Among smokers, approximately 60% bought their cigarettes in a store with no restriction for their age, and over 12% had ever been offered free cigarettes, despite the law prohibiting this.
- Tobacco smoking remains a common health exposure among male population in Azerbaijan. In 2015 data from State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan Republic<sup>7</sup> show that 35.9% of men above 15 year old reporting that they are smokers. Since the prevalence was almost 100 times higher for men than for women, the possibility on underreporting among female respondents cannot be excluded. Prevalence of current tobacco smoking: 30% men aged 20-44 and 51% men aged 45-64. Among current smokers, average number of smoking tobacco product was over 16 sticks per day.
- Findings from 2011 National Survey on Risk Factors for Chronic Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD) in Azerbaijan<sup>8</sup> among 2400 adult 18 years and above show that the prevalence of smoking and daily smoking was overall 22.9% and 21.3% respectively. However, this prevalence was almost 100 times higher for men (48.7%) than for women (0.5%), the possibility on underreporting among female respondents cannot be excluded. The mean starting tobacco smoking age of daily smokers was overall around 19 years, the mean duration of smoking was 21.5 years. Furthermore, the study found high levels of environmental tobacco smoke exposure or passive smoking at home, public places and at workplace. The greatest exposure was found at public places for men (76.6%) and at homes for women (41.2%).
- One in every two men was a current smoker, whereas less than 1% of women reported smoking at the time of the interview. Considering very low prevalence of smoking among female respondents, furthermore more detailed information related to smoking is presented only on men. Among the men, the highest prevalence of smoking was observed in 35-44 years old (61%) with

substantial decline after 54 years of age. Overall 45.4% of men reported daily smoking. The prevalence of daily smoking was highest among 35-44 years old (58.3%).

- All except three current daily smokers reported using manufactured cigarettes. The daily smokers smoked on average 20 cigarettes a day with the highest mean in 45-54 years old and the lowest in 18-24 years old (23 and 15 cigarettes respectively). Around 39% of all daily current smokers reported smoking inside their home. Sixty-nine percent of those smoking inside their home did it every day. Forty-one percent of the respondents reported never smoking in public places, whereas 34% said that they did it on a daily basis. Around 28% (133 out of 461) of the non-smoking respondents ever smoked daily in the past. The mean age when the ex-smokers quit smoking was 37 for men.
- Only 4 respondents (0.2%) reported that they used some smokeless tobacco products, and none of them used it daily. The survey also sought information from the participants on their exposition to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) or passive smoking. While very few women reported smoking, the findings indicate that they are more likely than men to be exposed to ETS at home (41.2% vs. 31.8%). ETS exposure at work and public places was higher in men, which can be explained by a higher share of employed people among the male respondents and women traditionally less likely to visit public places, especially in rural areas. Overall almost 60% of the respondents reported being exposed to ETS either at home, work or public places during the last 7 days with men being exposed more frequently than women (67.5% and 52.3% respectively). For both sexes the exposure is more likely to happen at public places than at home or work (59.2% vs. 35.6% and 34.9%). When examined by age groups, ETS exposure tended to be greater in younger ages. These findings indicate to the need in additional educational and legislative efforts to reduce exposure to ETS.
- Data from 2015 State Statistical Committee confirms the 2011 NCD survey data on very low prevalence of smoking among women.

#### **1.4 Current State of Policy**

Currently, in Azerbaijan, there are number of strategies and legislation related to tobacco control:

- Law on Tobacco and Tobacco Products<sup>9</sup> enacted in 2001 and came into force in 2002 regulates the production, import and sale of tobacco products and sets restrictions on smoking places. In particular the law prohibits selling tobacco items to individuals under age 18, bans all forms of promotion and restricts places for smoking. The law requires labeling of tobacco products with warning on adverse health effects. Tobacco products are prohibited for sale near educational, health, cultural, and children institutions. Smoking is prohibited in training, educational, recreational facility, health and culture, as well as in the halls where held sports competitions and other events. Law on Tobacco and Tobacco Products throughout Azerbaijan prohibiting smoking indoors in public places and public workplaces however, smoking is allowed in designated places. Employers must provide designated areas for smoking and post a “no smoking” sign in visible places. Law prohibiting smoking in public transport however, smoking is allowed in designated places of long-distance transport. However, the implementation of many law provisions appears to be poorly enforced. The sale of tobacco products by the piece, near hospitals and schools, smoking in public buildings and workplace are still very common.
- Law on Advertising<sup>10</sup> enacted in 1997 and updated in 2015 are prohibited advertising and promotion of tobacco, tobacco products and their accessories.
- Law on Television and Radio Broadcasting<sup>11</sup> adopted in 2002 are prohibited the television and radio advertising of tobacco products.
- Rules of Passengers and Luggage Carriage on Road Transport<sup>12</sup> approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan Republic Decree are sets that smoking inside the taxi motor vehicles is allowed only by a mutual agreement between the passenger and the driver. Also, smoking in the

passenger vehicle cabin by passenger, as well o smoking in the buses that move regularly through between or within towns and cities and on international routes by personnel of the passenger transport are prohibited.

- Tax Code<sup>13</sup> enacted in 2000 and updated in 2014 provides details on the rates of taxation for tobacco products. Value Added Tax (VAT) is 18 % of retail price. Excise tax for tobacco products produced in Azerbaijan is 10.0 manats for 1000 pcs. to cigars, cut-end cigars, and cigarillos (slim cigars); and 4.0 manats for 1000 pcs. to cigarettes made of tobacco and their substitutes. In 2015 excise rate for imported tobacco products in the Azerbaijan Republic was changed: 10.0 manats for 1000 pcs. to cigars, cut-end cigars, and cigarillos consisting of tobacco; and 4.0 manats for 1000 pcs. to cigarettes consisting of tobacco. Import duties for other manufactured tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes; "homogenised" or "reconstituted" tobacco; tobacco extracts and essences are 1.0 USD of 1.0 kg and for unmanufactured tobacco and tobacco refuse are 15% of custom price.
- The Code of the Azerbaijan Republic On administrative violations<sup>14</sup> enacted in 2000 and updated in 2015 enacted new penalties and raised some existing penalties: for smoking in prohibited places, as pointed in the Law of Azerbaijan Republic "On tobacco and tobacco products" - 30 AZN, in case of no ensuring allocation of special places for smoking and absence of "No Smoking" warning message or the sign in enterprises, institutions, organizations - 400 AZN to officials and 1000 AZN to legal entities, for smoking cigarette in places no fixed/determined on air (100 AZN) , railway, sea and river transports (40 AZN), for smoking in metro stations lobby, passages and platforms, wagons - 50 AZN, smoking in the buses that move regularly through between or within towns and cities and on international routes shall result in the penalty amount up to 50 AZN. Penalties for break a regulations on selling of the tobacco products - 50-80 AZN and for selling its to under age - 100 AZN.
- *State Standart of Azerbaijan Republic AZS 335-2009 "Tobacco products. Packaging and marking"*<sup>15</sup> enacted in 2009 and shall apply to tobacco products produced, imported and sold in the territory of the Azerbaijan Republic and shall define the requirements for packaging and marking these products. This standard shall be considered to be used in production, wholesale and retail selling, storing and certification of tobacco products.
- In 2012 the Ministry of Health of Azerbaijan Republic has approved the National Clinical Protocol on Smoking Cessation<sup>16</sup> was developed in the Public Health and Reforms Center.
- "National NCD Strategy and Operational Plan 2015-2020", including measures on tobacco control approved by the President of Azerbaijan in 2015.
- The Ministry of Health's Strategic Plan and Action Plan for 2014-2020, including measures on tobacco control was approved in 2014.
- Every year the Public Health and Reforms Center MoH (PHRC) leads the World No Tobacco Day activities at the national level directed to the general population, especially youth, media professionals, decision-makers. For example: in 2013 and 2014, the 1-st and 2-nd No Smoking Film Festival's dedicated to World No Tobacco Days were launched in Baku. The members of the National Tobacco Control Coalition, representatives from various state, international and NGOs, the Ministry of Health, the PHRC as well as well-known celebrities, media representatives and others participated in the event.
- In 2015 the Public Health and Reforms Center MoH updated [www.tobaccocontrol.az](http://www.tobaccocontrol.az) web-platform and created new [www.nosmoke.az](http://www.nosmoke.az) (linked to ongoing anti-tobacco Campaign "Make Everyday No Tobacco Day!") web-platform to promotion activities on tobacco control.

## 1.5 Other Tobacco Surveys

The GYTS has been conducted in Azerbaijan for the first time in 2011. In addition to the GYTS, the following surveys have been run in Azerbaijan:

- Azerbaijan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 2000
- Reproductive, maternal, and child health in Eastern Europe and Eurasia: a comparative report, 2001
- Reproductive Health Survey, Azerbaijan, 2001<sup>17</sup>
- Health and development survey among youth, 2002
- Azerbaijan Demographic and Health Survey, 2006<sup>18</sup>
- Health Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices among Adults Azerbaijan (KAP): A social-epidemiological analysis, 2006
- Situational analysis on Noncommunicable Diseases in Azerbaijan, 2009
- Azerbaijan Demographic and Health Survey, 2011<sup>19</sup>
- National Survey on Risk Factors for Chronic Noncommunicable Diseases in Azerbaijan, 2011<sup>20</sup>
- Azerbaijan Demographic and Health Survey, 2011 (that research is ongoing)
- Study of trends in the prevalence of certain NCD risk factors among women in Azerbaijan, 2015<sup>21</sup>
- Comparative analysis of compliance of the tobacco related relevant legislation of Azerbaijan Republic with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, conducted in 2015<sup>22</sup> and updated in 2016.

## 1.6 Country Specific Objectives

1. Reduce current tobacco use in Azerbaijan in students in grades 8, 9, 10 from 7.3% in 2016 to 6.5% in 2020.
2. Reduce never smokers susceptibility to start smoking in Azerbaijan in students in grades 8, 9, 10 from 8.0% in 2016 to 7.2% in 2020.
3. Increase tobacco use cessation attempts in Azerbaijan in students in grades 8, 9, 10 from 65.0% in 2016 to 71.5% in 2020.
4. Reduce percent of those think young people who smoke are more attractive in Azerbaijan in students in grades 8, 9, 10 from 29.2% in 2016 to 26.3% in 2020.
5. Reduce percent of current smokers usually smoking at home in Azerbaijan in students in grades 8, 9, 10 from 13.4% in 2016 to 12.0% in 2020.
6. Reduce percent of those not refuse purchase because of age in Azerbaijan in students in grades 8, 9, 10 from 64.8% in 2016 to 58.3% in 2020.
7. Reduce percent of those live in homes where others smoke in Azerbaijan in students in grades 8, 9, 10 from 28.8% in 2016 to 25.9% in 2020.
8. Increase percent of those think smoke from others is harmful to them in Azerbaijan in students in grades 8, 9, 10 from 81.8% in 2016 to 90.0% in 2020.
9. Increase percent of those saw anti-smoking media messages in Azerbaijan in students in grades 8, 9, 10 from 62.3% in 2016 to 68.5% in 2020.
10. Increase percent of those had been taught in class about the dangers of smoking in Azerbaijan in students in grades 8, 9, 10 from 66.0% in 2016 to 72.6% in 2020.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

---

### 2.1 Questionnaire

The GYTS questionnaire contained 77 multiple-choice questions. The survey included 43 questions from the GYTS Standard Core Questionnaire, 33 selected optional questions, and 1 country-specific questions. The final questionnaire was translated into Azerbaijan and back-translated into English to check for accuracy. The 2016 Azerbaijan questionnaire is provided in *Appendix A*.

### 2.2 Sampling Design

The 2016 Azerbaijan GYTS is a school-based survey, which employed a two-stage cluster sample design to produce a national representative sample of students in grades 8 through 10. The sampling frame consisted of all secondary school containing grades 8 through 10. In the first stage, schools were selected with probability proportional to school enrollment size. The second sampling stage consisted of systematic equal probability sampling (with a random start) of classes from each school selected during the first stage. The GYTS was conducted in 25 schools and 121 classrooms. 2220 students participated in the GYTS. The grades that were sampled for the 2016 GYTS were 8, 9, and 10.

### 2.3 Data Collection

Data collection took place from 18 April 2016 to 7 May 2016, and was supported by 8 trained field staff.

Survey procedures were designed to protect the students' privacy by allowing for anonymous and voluntary participation. The questionnaire was self-administered in the classroom. Students recorded their responses directly on an answer sheet that could be scanned by a computer.

### 2.4 Data Analysis

A weighting factor was applied to each student record to adjust for probability of selection, non-response, and post-stratification adjustment to population estimates. SUDAAN, a software package for statistical analysis of complex survey data, was used to calculate weighted prevalence estimates and standard errors (SE) of the estimates (95% confidence intervals [CI] were calculated from the SEs). Frequency tables were developed for the survey questions that are considered key tobacco control indicators from the GYTS. Indicators are in accordance with the WHO FCTC and MPOWER technical package.

**Table 1** provides sample size and response rate information. For the 2016 Azerbaijan GYTS, 2220 questionnaires were completed in 25 schools. A total of 2220 students participated in the GYTS of which 2122 were aged 13 to 15 years (Male: 1062, Female: 1058, two students not noted their sex). The school response rate was 100%, the class response rate was 100%, and the student response rate was 97.9%. The overall response rate was 97.9%.

**Table 1:** Sample sizes and response rates (unweighted) – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016.

	<b>Total</b>
<b><i>School Level</i></b>	
Number of Sampled Schools	25
Number of Participating Schools	25
School Response Rate (%)	100
<b><i>Class Level</i></b>	
Number of Sampled Classes	121
Number of Participating Classes	121
Class Response Rate (%)	100
<b><i>Student Level</i></b>	
Number of Sampled Students	2268
Number of Participating Students	2220
Student Response Rate (%)	97.9
<b>Overall Response Rate (%)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>97.9</b>

<sup>1</sup>Overall Response Rate = School Response Rate X Class Response Rate X Student Response Rate

### 3. RESULTS

#### 3.1 Tobacco Use

**Table 2:** Detailed tobacco use status among students 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016.

	Overall	Boys	Girls
	<i>Percentage (95% CI)</i>		
<b>Smoked Tobacco</b>			
Current tobacco smokers <sup>1</sup>	7.3 (6.3-8.4)	11.6 (9.7-13.9)	2.3 (1.5-3.5)
Current cigarette smokers <sup>2</sup>	2.9 (2.3-3.6)	4.6 (3.4-6.2)	1.0 (0.6-1.5)
Frequent cigarette smokers <sup>3</sup>	1.0 (0.6-1.6)	1.6 (0.9-2.9)	0.3 (0.1-1.4)
Current smokers of other tobacco <sup>4</sup>	5.8 (4.8-6.9)	9.3 (7.3-11.7)	1.7 (1.1-2.8)
Ever tobacco smokers <sup>5</sup>	18.0 (14.7-21.8)	26.3 (21.5-31.8)	8.4 (5.8-11.9)
Ever cigarette smokers <sup>6</sup>	10.3 (8.1-12.9)	15.1 (11.7-19.2)	4.8 (3.3-6.9)
Ever smokers of other tobacco <sup>7</sup>	12.4 (9.9-15.4)	19.3 (15.1-24.2)	4.5 (2.7-7.4)
<b>Smokeless Tobacco</b>			
Current smokeless tobacco users <sup>8</sup>	1.8 (1.2-2.7)	2.4 (1.4-4.1)	1.1 (0.7-1.9)
Ever smokeless tobacco users <sup>9</sup>	4.5 (3.7-5.5)	5.5 (4.3-7.1)	3.4 (2.5-4.5)
<b>Tobacco Use</b>			
Current tobacco users <sup>10</sup>	8.4 (7.2-9.7)	12.9 (11.1-15.1)	3.1 (2.0-4.9)
Ever tobacco users <sup>11</sup>	20.4 (17.5-23.7)	29.1 (24.7-33.9)	10.4 (7.8-13.8)
<b>Susceptibility to Tobacco Use</b>			
Never tobacco users susceptible to tobacco use in the future <sup>12</sup>	8.0 (6.4-10.1)	11.3 (8.6-14.6)	5.1 (3.5-7.5)
Never smokers who thought they might enjoy smoking a cigarette <sup>13</sup>	4.3 (2.4-7.7)	5.5 (2.9-10.1)	3.4 (1.8-6.3)

<sup>1</sup> Smoked tobacco anytime during the past 30 days. <sup>2</sup> Smoked cigarettes anytime during the past 30 days. <sup>3</sup> Smoked cigarettes on 20 or more days of the past 30 days. <sup>4</sup> Smoked tobacco other than cigarettes anytime during the past 30 days. <sup>5</sup> Ever smoked any tobacco, even one or two puffs. <sup>6</sup> Ever smoked cigarettes, even one or two puffs. <sup>7</sup> Ever smoked tobacco other than cigarettes, even one or two puffs. <sup>8</sup> Used smokeless tobacco anytime during the past 30 days. <sup>9</sup> Ever used smokeless tobacco. <sup>10</sup> Smoked tobacco and/or used smokeless tobacco anytime during the past 30 days. <sup>11</sup> Ever smoked tobacco and/or used smokeless tobacco. <sup>12</sup> Susceptible to future tobacco use includes those who answered “Definitely yes”, “Probably yes”, or “Probably not” to using tobacco if one of their best friends offered it to them or those who answered “Definitely yes”, “Probably yes”, or “Probably not” to using tobacco during the next 12 months. <sup>13</sup> Those who answered “Agree” or “Strongly agree” to the statement: “I think I might enjoy smoking a cigarette”.

10.3% of students in Azerbaijan had ever smoked cigarettes (in 2011 GYTS – 10.6%), with significantly higher rates among boys. Current (last month) tobacco use rates were raised - 7.3% (6.8% in 2011), at 11.6% for boys and 2.3% for girls. The prevalence of current cigarette smokers was 2.9% (2.7% in 2011). The prevalence of currently daily smoking cigarettes was 1% like in 2011. 8% of never smokers (8.7% in 2011) reported being susceptible to initiate smoking in the next year.

**Table 3:** Cigarettes smoked per day among current cigarette smokers 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016.

Number of cigarettes usually smoked <sup>1</sup>	Overall (n=58)	Boys (n=48)	Girls (n=10) <sup>2</sup>
	<i>Percentage (95% CI)</i>		
Less than 1 per day	30.8 (17.0-49.3)	29.1 (14.5-49.8)	40.4 (21.1-63-.2)
1 per day	15.3 (5.0-38.1)	14.5 (5.4-33.3)	19.7 (1.5-77.9)
2 to 5 per day	24.0 (12.4-41.3)	26.6 (13.5-45.7)	9.6 (1.2-49.0)
6 to 10 per day	5.2 (0.9-24.3)	6.2 (1.1-27.8)	0.0 (-)
11 to 20 per day	10.5 (3.8-25.6)	10.5 (4.0-25.2)	10.1 (1.2-50.4)
More than 20 per day	14.2 (7.1-26.5)	13.1 (4.8-31.3)	20.2 (1.6-79.6)
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100

<sup>1</sup> On the days that current cigarette smokers smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days.

<sup>2</sup> n=Cell Size (number of students who answered the question): ATTENTION, use caution in interpreting cell sizes less than 35.

Among current cigarette smokers (boys – 48, girls - 10) 30.8% (generally boys) smoked less than 1 cigarette per day during the past month. Total number of students smoked 1 or more cigarettes per day during the past month has been less than above mentioned (from 5.2% to 24.0%).

**Table 4:** Age at cigarette smoking initiation among ever cigarette smokers 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016.

Age when first trying a cigarette <sup>1</sup>	Overall (n=141)	Boys (n= 114)	Girls (n=27) <sup>2</sup>
	<i>Percentage (95% CI)</i>		
7 years old or younger	21.7 (18.2-25.6)	17.6 (14.1-21.8)	41.4 (21.1-65.2)
8 or 9 years old	10.9 (6.3-18.5)	13.2 (8.0-20.8)	0.0 (-)
10 or 11 years old	13.9 (7.9-23.3)	14.5 (6.7-28.7)	11.1 2.5-37.9)
12 or 13 years old	32.7 (24.4-42.2)	32.6 (21.4-46.2)	33.1 (12.3-63-7)
14 or 15 years old	20.8 (13.9-29.9)	22.1 (13.3-34.4)	14.3 (5.7-31.6)
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100

<sup>1</sup> Among those that have ever tried a cigarette.

<sup>2</sup> n=Cell Size (number of students who answered the question): ATTENTION, use caution in interpreting cell sizes less than 35.

Among ever smokers (boys – 114, girls – 27) 32.6% (generally boys) reported that they began smoking before the age of 10 years old (36.6% in 2011).

**Table 5:** Current smokers 13-15 years old who are showing signs of smoking dependence, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016.

	Overall (n=73)	Boys (n=60)	Girls (n=13) <sup>2</sup>
	<i>Percentage (95% CI)</i>		
Signs of smoking dependence <sup>1</sup>	48.0 (38.6-57.6)	48.1 (37.0-59.5)	47.4 (17.8-78.9)

<sup>1</sup> Those who answered: 1) they sometimes or always smoke tobacco or feel like smoking tobacco first thing in the morning, or 2) they start to feel a strong desire to smoke again within one full day after smoking.

<sup>2</sup> n=Cell Size (number of students who answered the question): ATTENTION, use caution in interpreting cell sizes less than 35.

Among current smokers (boys – 60, girls – 13) 48.0% (generally boys) showing signs of smoking dependence.

## 3.2 Cessation

**Table 6:** Smoking tobacco cessation indicators among current smokers 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016.

	Overall	Boys	Girls
	<i>Percentage (95% CI)</i>		
<i>Current smokers who...</i>			
Tried to stop smoking in the past 12 months	65.0 (52.6-75.6), n=50	60.9 (48.0-72.4), n=44	100.0 (-) n <sup>1</sup> =6
Want to stop smoking now	65.6 (35.1-87.1), n <sup>1</sup> =33	60.1 (30.3-83.9), n <sup>1</sup> =28	100.0 (-) n <sup>1</sup> =5
Thought they would be able to stop smoking if they wanted to	71.2 (55.9-82.8), n=44	73.6 (60.4-83.6), n=37	56.6 (-) n <sup>1</sup> =7
Have ever received help/advice from professional to stop smoking	26.0 (17.5-36.8), n=77	21.0 (11.1-36.3), n=64	54.1 (17.7-86.6), n <sup>1</sup> =13

<sup>1</sup> n=Cell Size (number of students who answered the question): ATTENTION, use caution in interpreting cell sizes less than 35.

65.6% (61.8% in 2011) reported that they want to stop smoking, and 65.0% (53.7% in 2011) tried to stop smoking within the past year. 71.2% of current smokers thought they would be able to stop smoking if they wanted to, 26.0% report that they have received help or advice from professional to stop smoking. Among respondents who answer these questions, number of boys was 5-7 times more than girls.

### 3.3 Secondhand Smoke

**Table 7:** Students 13-15 years old who were exposed to tobacco smoke, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016.

	Overall	Boys	Girls
	<i>Percentage (95% CI)</i>		
Exposed to tobacco smoke at home (during the past 7 days)	28.8 (26.1-31.6)	28.3 (25.3-31.6)	29.1 (25.5-33.0)
Exposed to tobacco smoke inside any enclosed public place (during the past 7 days)	40.8 (37.1-44.5)	45.2 (40.5-49.9)	35.6 (31.5-39.8)
Exposed to tobacco smoke at any outdoor public place (during the past 7 days)	42.2 (37.7-46.9)	45.6 (40.1-51.2)	38.3 (33.7-43.2)
Saw anyone smoking inside the school building or outside on school property (during the past 30 days)	43.7 (38.0-49.6)	44.5 (38.2-50.8)	42.8 (35.6-50.3)

28.8% of the students participated in the survey (27.1% in 2011) were exposed to tobacco smoke at home, 40.8% (27.3% in 2011) - inside enclosed public place and 42.2% (37.1% in 2011) - at outdoor public place. 43.7% saw anyone smoking inside the school building or outside on school property. Proportion of respondents answered to these questions was about equal for boys and girls.

### 3.4 Access and Availability

**Table 8:** Source for obtaining cigarettes among cigarette smokers 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016.

Source <sup>1</sup>	Overall (n=46)	Boys (n=39)	Girls (n=7) <sup>2</sup>
	<i>Percentage (95% CI)</i>		
Purchased from a store	75.2 (58.6-86.6)	77.9 (59.6-89.4)	57.9 (32.4-79.8)
Purchased from a street vendor	7.0 (4.4-10.8)	5.9 (3.8-9.0)	13.8 (1.2-68.7)
Purchased from a kiosk	9.0 (2.7-26.0)	8.2 (2.2-26.6)	13.8 (1.7-59.7)
Got them from someone else	6.9 (2.0-20.7)	8.0 (2.3-24.3)	0.0 (-)
Got them some other way	2.0 (0.2-16.8)	0.0 (-)	14.5 (1.3-68.9)
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100

<sup>1</sup> How cigarette smokers obtained the cigarette they last smoked during the past 30 days.

<sup>2</sup> n=Cell Size (number of students who answered the question): ATTENTION, use caution in interpreting cell sizes less than 35.

75.2% of cigarette smokers (59.1% in 2011) obtained the cigarette they last smoked from a store (generally boys).

**Table 9:** Current cigarette smokers 13-15 years old who were not prevented from buying cigarettes because of their age, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016.

	Overall (n=43)	Boys (n=34) <sup>2</sup>	Girls (n=9) <sup>2</sup>
	<i>Percentage (95% CI)</i>		
Current cigarette smokers who were not prevented from buying cigarettes because of their age <sup>1</sup>	64.8 (40.3-83.4)	64.4 (43.6-80.9)	66.3 (20.4-93.8)

<sup>1</sup> Among those who tried to buy cigarettes during the past 30 days.

<sup>2</sup> n=Cell Size (number of students who answered the question): ATTENTION, use caution in interpreting cell sizes less than 35.

Generally among boys, 64.8% of current cigarette smokers (86.9% in 2011) were not prevented from buying cigarettes because of their age.

**Table 10:** Unit of cigarette purchase among current cigarette smokers 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016.

Unit of purchase <sup>1</sup>	Overall (n=45)	Boys (n=36)	Girls (n=9) <sup>2</sup>
	<i>Percentage (95% CI)</i>		
Individual sticks	44.0 (31.5-57.4)	41.5 (27.7-56.8)	55.1 (27.2-80.1)
Pack	44.0 (32.9-55.7)	43.8 (29.3-59.4)	44.9 (19.9-72.8)
Carton	12.0 (3.8-32.1)	14.7 (4.3-39.9)	0.0 (-)
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100

<sup>1</sup> Based on the last purchase, among those who bought cigarettes during the past 30 days.

<sup>2</sup> n=Cell Size (number of students who answered the question): ATTENTION, use caution in interpreting cell sizes less than 35.

Number of current cigarette smokers (generally boys) bought cigarettes in a pack and bought individual sticks were equal - 44.0%.

**Table 11:** Cost of cigarettes according to the students students 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016.

Cost of a pack (20 cigarettes) <sup>1</sup>	Overall	Boys	Girls
Less than 1 manat	4.6 (3.4-6.1)	5.1 (3.3-7.9)	4.0 (2.4-6.4)
1 to 2 manats	15.7 (13.3-18.4)	17.7 (14.0-22.2)	13.4 (11.4-15.7)
3 manats	7.8 (6.6-9.2)	10.1 (8.2-12.4)	5.2 (3.7-7.3)
4 to 5 manats	3.1 (2.2-4.3)	4.0 (3.0-5.2)	1.9 (0.9-4.0)
More than 5 manats	3.1 (2.2-4.5)	3.5 (2.1-5.7)	2.6 (1.7-4.0)

<sup>1</sup> Average cost of a pack of 20 cigarettes, according to the students.

1/3 of students could not answer this question. 15.7% of students think that cost of pack of cigarettes is 1-2 manats, 7.8% think 3 manats, others (10.8%) - less than 1 manat or more than 4 manats.

## 3.5 Media

### 3.5.1 Anti-Tobacco

**Table 12:** Noticing anti-tobacco information among students 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016.

	Overall	Boys	Girls
	<i>Percentage (95% CI)</i>		
Noticed anti-tobacco messages in the media <sup>1</sup> in the past 30 days <sup>2</sup>	62.3 (59.7-64.8)	59.7 (55.6-63.6)	65.3 (61.1-69.3)
<i>Noticed anti-tobacco messages at sporting or community events</i>			
Among all students in the past 30 days	25.2 (21.0-30.0)	28.4 (23.0-34.5)	21.5 (17.7-25.9)
Among those who attended sporting or community events in the past 30 days	45.3 (40.3-50.4)	45.3 (39.3-51.5)	45.1 (39.1-51.8)
Taught in school about the dangers of tobacco use in the past 12 months <sup>2</sup>	66.0 (62.9-69.0)	62.9 (59.0-66.6)	69.7 (65.0-74.1)

<sup>1</sup> For example, television, radio, internet, billboards, posters, newspapers, magazines, movies.

<sup>2</sup> Among all students aged 13-15 years old.

During last month 62.3% of students saw or heard anti-tobacco media messages (72.3% in 2011), 45.3% saw or heard anti-tobacco messages at the attended sporting or community events. 66.0% of students were taught in school about the dangers of tobacco use in the past year (65.5% in 2011). Proportion of respondents answered to these questions was about equal for boys and girls.

**Table 13:** Noticing of health warnings on cigarette packages among current and never smokers 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016.

	Overall	Boys	Girls
	<i>Percentage (95% CI)</i>		
Current smokers who noticed health warnings on cigarette packages <sup>†</sup>	74.3 (65.7-81.4) n=138	74.2 (65.3-81.4) n=114	75.3 (52.6-89.3) n <sup>2</sup> =24
<i>Thought about quitting smoking because of health warnings on cigarette packages<sup>†</sup></i>			
Among current smokers	40.2 (32.6-48.2) n=138	41.4 (33.1-50.2) n=114	33.5 (19.2-51.6) n <sup>2</sup> =24
Among current smokers who noticed health warnings	54.0 (45.8-62.0) n=103	55.8 (46.0-65.2) n=85	44.5 (30.2-59.9) n <sup>2</sup> =18
Never smokers who thought about not starting smoking because of health warnings on cigarette packages <sup>†,1</sup>	44.6 (41.9-47.2) n=667	48.4 (44.7-52.0) n=338	40.0 (35.7-44.5) n=329

<sup>†</sup> During the past 30 days.

<sup>1</sup> Among never smokers who noticed health warnings on cigarette packages in the past 30 days.

<sup>2</sup> n=Cell Size (number of students who answered the question): ATTENTION, use caution in interpreting cell sizes less than 35.

During last month among current smokers 74.3% of them noticed health warnings on cigarette packages and for this reason 54.0% thought about quitting smoking (generally boys). 44.6% of never smokers thought about not starting smoking because noticing of health warnings during last month.

### 3.5.2 Tobacco Marketing

**Table 14:** Noticing tobacco marketing among students 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016.

	Overall	Boys	Girls
	<i>Percentage (95% CI)</i>		
<i>Noticed tobacco advertisements or promotions at points of sale</i>			
Among all students in the past 30 days	23.5 (21.2-26.0)	26.7 (23.1-30.7)	19.8 (17.5-22.4)
Among those who visited a point of sale in the past 30 days	32.5 (29.7-35.3)	34.7 (30.1-39.6)	29.5 (26.3-32.8)
<i>Noticed anyone using tobacco on television, videos, or movies</i>			
Among all students in the past 30 days	61.2 (58.5-63.8)	61.9 (57.9-65.8)	60.5 (57.7-63.3)
Among those who watched television, videos, or movies in the past 30 days	68.9 (66.9-70.9)	70.2 (66.9-73.4)	67.6 (64.9-70.2)
Ever offered a free tobacco product from a tobacco company representative	5.9 (4.1-8.3)	8.6 (6.0-12.2)	2.8 (1.5-5.2)

During last month 32.5% of students noticed tobacco advertisements or promotions at points of sale when visited these places, 68.9% (61.0% in 2011) noticed anyone using tobacco on television, videos, or movies when watched these ones.

**Table 15:** Ownership and receptivity to tobacco marketing among students 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016.

	Overall	Boys	Girls
	<i>Percentage (95% CI)</i>		
Students who owned something with a tobacco brand logo on it <sup>1</sup>	8.7 (6.6-11.5)	11.7 (8.6-15.8)	5.2 (3.4-8.1)
Never tobacco users who owned something with a tobacco brand logo on it or might in the future <sup>2,3</sup>	14.5 (12.0-17.3)	19.0 (15.1-23.6)	10.4 (7.6-14.0)

<sup>1</sup> For example, a t-shirt, pen, backpack.

<sup>2</sup> Those who might use or wear something that has a tobacco company or product name or picture on it.

<sup>3</sup> Considered highly receptive to tobacco marketing (at risk for future tobacco use).

8.7% of students (10.7% in 2011) owned something with a tobacco brand logo on it and 14.5% of never smokers owned something with a tobacco brand logo on it or might in the future (in all cases, proportion of boys was more than 2 times).

### 3.6 Knowledge and Attitudes

**Table 16:** Knowledge and attitudes towards smoking cessation and social smoking among students 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016.

	Overall	Boys	Girls
	<i>Percentage (95% CI)</i>		
<i>Students who...</i>			
Definitely thought it is difficult to quit once someone starts smoking tobacco	17.3 (14.2-20.9)	18.9 (15.1-23.4)	15.5 (11.9-20.0)
Thought smoking tobacco helps people feel more comfortable at celebrations, parties, and social gatherings	25.1 (22.2-28.2)	26.5 (23.6-29.6)	23.3 (19.5-27.7)

17.3% of students thought it is difficult to quit once someone starts smoking tobacco and 25.1% (27.6% in 2011) thought smoking tobacco helps people feel more comfortable at celebrations, parties, and social gatherings.

**Table 17:** Knowledge and attitudes towards secondhand smoke among students 13-15 years old, by gender – GYTS Azerbaijan, 2016.

	Overall	Boys	Girls
	<i>Percentage (95% CI)</i>		
<i>Students who...</i>			
Definitely thought other people's tobacco smoking is harmful to them	81.8 (76.6-86.0)	78.5 (73.8-82.5)	85.7 (79.7-90.1)
Favored banning smoking inside enclosed public places	82.8 (79.9-85.3)	78.4 (74.9-81.5)	87.8 (84.5-90.5)
Favored banning smoking at outdoor public places	80.0 (76.6-82.2)	76.4 (72.6-79.8)	84.3 (81.8-86.4)

81.8% of students (85.9% in 2011) think smoke from others is harmful to them, 82.8% of students (94.0% in 2011) think that smoking should be banned inside enclosed public places and 80.0% think that smoking should be banned at outdoor public places.

## 4. DISCUSSION

---

### 4.1 Discussion of Survey Findings

#### Tobacco Use

- *10.3% of students in Azerbaijan had ever smoked cigarettes, with significantly higher rates among boys - 15.1%.*
- *Current (last month) tobacco use rates were 7.3%, at 11.6% for boys and 2.3% for girls.*
- *Overall, 2.9% of students currently smoked cigarettes.*
- *Smoking at home rates was 13.4%.*
- *The prevalence of currently daily smoking cigarettes was 1%.*
- *32.6% of ever smokers (generally boys) reported that they began smoking before the age of 10 years old.*
- *8% of never smokers reported being susceptible to initiate smoking in the next year.*

The GYTS results show that the prevalence of smoking in middle-school children still is high in Azerbaijan. Smoking among young people constitutes a significant problem that does not improve in the absence of sufficient comprehensive efforts focused on strict anti-smoking legislation, policies and tobacco control interventions targeting children at a young age. The Law of Azerbaijan Republic “On tobacco and tobacco products” regulates production, import and trade of tobacco products and defines restrictions on smoking places. By the Law, smoking is prohibited in educational, health and culture facilities, as well as in the facilities of sports competitions and other events. However, enforcement of the bans is insufficiently implemented or gaps in the Law do not allow for this. On the other hand, the 1st paragraph of Article 6 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control especially emphasizes that price and tax measures are an effective and important means of reducing tobacco use in the different groups of the population, in particular by young people. Rising price of tobacco products is the most cost effective State intervention that might affect to reduce tobacco use. In turn, tax is the most powerful tool of the State in terms of affect to the price of tobacco products. It is recommended the same tax for all tobacco products. High tobacco taxes allow keep youth and adolescents away from tobacco.

#### Cessation

- *65% of current smokers tried to stop smoking in the past year.*
- *71.2% of current smokers thought they would be able to stop smoking if they wanted to.*
- *26% report that they have received help or advice from professional to stop smoking.*
- *17.3% of students definitely thought it is difficult to quit once someone starts smoking tobacco.*

The above mentioned facts should be considered in the design of public health, education and other areas interventions aimed to reduce adolescent tobacco smoking. Establishing in the country services on smoking cessation and quit line and adaptation to the needs of adolescents is of particular importance.

Article 14 of the Framework Convention identifies obligations of countries for carry out the necessary activities regarding demand reduction measures concerning tobacco dependence and cessation. Guidelines for the implementation of Article 14 encourage Parties to create a sustainable infrastructure, which motivates attempts to quit and ensures wide access to support for tobacco users who wish to quit. There is need to adopt appropriate policies in this area, and appropriate tobacco dependence treatment services should be available.

### **Secondhand Smoke**

- *Overall 28.8% of 10 students were exposed to smoke in their home.*
- *40.8% of students are exposed to smoke in enclosed and 42.2% in outdoor public places.*
- *43.7% saw anyone smoking inside the school building or outside on school property.*
- *82.8% of students think that smoking should be banned inside enclosed public places and 80% think that smoking should be banned at outdoor public places.*

Country's tobacco control efforts should pay attention to the strengthening of the existing legislation by inclusion of effective mechanisms or by further develop of existing measures, especially in frame of the “National NCD Strategy and Operational Plan 2015-2020”. The Law of Azerbaijan Republic “On tobacco and tobacco products” not yet established total smoke free environment in all public and work places. Despite that the Law prohibited smoking inside enclosed public and work places in Azerbaijan, smoking is allowed in designated places. Despite the newly appointed and raising of previous penalties within the Code On administrative violations, mechanisms for enforcement of this fines not completely determined or are not working. Article 8 of the Framework Convention emphasize clearly research evidences of the effects of tobacco smoke that results to death, different diseases and disabilities. The country's legislation, in particular Article 21 of the Law “On tobacco and tobacco products” prohibits smoking in number of places, but with exceptions. To ensure full compliance Azerbaijan's legislation to Article 8 of the Framework Convention and establish a 100% smoke free environment, smoking inside enclosed places should be banned without exceptions.

### **Access and Availability**

- *Overall 75.2% of cigarette smokers obtained the cigarette they last smoked from a store (generally boys).*
- *Generally among boys, 64.8% of current cigarette smokers were not prevented from buying cigarettes because of their age.*
- *Number of current cigarette smokers (generally boys) bought cigarettes in a pack and bought individual sticks were equal - 44%.*

The Law of Azerbaijan Republic “On tobacco and tobacco products” prohibits the sale of tobacco products to persons under 18 and all forms of promotion of tobacco products, limits the smoking places and requires warnings on tobacco packages regarding harmful impact of smoking to health. By this Law tobacco products sellers have a right to ask from customers document confirming their age, however in reality it does not enforced. Despite increase penalties for violations the rules of tobacco products and for sales of tobacco products to minors by the Code On administrative violations, enforcement of fines is

very weak. On the other hand, Azerbaijan applies different excise tax by the types of tobacco products, and therefore creates conditions for some tobacco products to be less expensive and thus more accessible to vulnerable groups. Article 16 of the Framework Convention requires ban the sale of tobacco products to minors. Despite the article that requires to "all sellers of tobacco products must to place in clear visible place at point of sale the notification on ban of sales tobacco product to minors" is in line with Article 15 of the Law of Azerbaijan Republic "On tobacco and tobacco products", however the ban is not enforced by sellers. Article 16.3 of the Framework Convention obliges of States Parties to ban the sale of cigarettes by individual sticks, because it increases possibility of purchase cigarettes by minors, does cigarettes more accessible to them. Despite that the Law "On tobacco and tobacco products" is in line with the requirements on ban the sale of tobacco products by individual sticks, such sales widely spread in Azerbaijan.

### **Exposure to Anti-Tobacco Information**

- *During last month 62.3% of students saw or heard anti-tobacco media messages.*
- *45.3% saw or heard anti-tobacco messages at the attended sporting or community events.*
- *66.0% of students were taught in school about the dangers of tobacco use in the past year.*
- *During last month among current smokers 74.3% of them noticed health warnings on cigarette packages and for this reason 54.0% thought about quitting smoking.*
- *44.6% of never smokers thought about not starting smoking because noticing of health warnings during last month.*

The results shows that targeted tobacco control policies, especially the anti-tobacco information and warnings about the dangers of tobacco smoke to health discourages adolescents from smoking and to creates desire to quit smoke. However, health warnings defined by the Azerbaijan Republic "Tobacco products. Packaging and Marking" State Standard should carry on cigarette boxes not only messages, but also includes impressive pictures, periodically changes message content, and not use facilities that might imply directly or indirectly wrong impression that one brand is less harmful than another, in accordance with Guidelines for the implementation of Article 11 of the Framework Convention. Therefore, implementation of relevant provisions of the "National NCD Strategy and Operational Plan 2015-2020" approved in 2015, in particular the adaptation of tobacco related legislation of Azerbaijan Republic to Framework Convention, appointed in Strategy, is very important. As well as activities carried out under the "Healthy Education – Healthy Nation" project of the Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan Republic, launched in 2014 project should be further strengthened to awareness building of adolescents on tobacco issues.

### **Awareness and Receptivity to Tobacco Marketing**

- *During last month 32.5% of students noticed tobacco advertisements or promotions at points of sale when visited this places.*
- *68.9% of students noticed anyone using tobacco on television, videos, or movies when watched these ones.*

- *8.7% of students owned something with a tobacco brand logo on it and 14.5% of never smokers owned something with a tobacco brand logo on it or might in the future.*
- *1 in 3 of students thinks tobacco point-of-sale displays motivate young people to smoke.*

Despite that the Law "On Advertising", updated in 2015, prohibits advertising and promotion of tobacco, tobacco products and their accessories, tobacco product display at point of sale still have a strong affects to people, especially teens. It is known that display of tobacco products at points of sale in itself is advertising and young people are particularly vulnerable to promotional impact of tobacco products display. To prevent this impact display of tobacco products and its visibility in retail facilities and at points of sales should be banned in Azerbaijan. In addition, the articles regarding tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship in Law of Azerbaijan Republic "On tobacco and tobacco products" should be strengthened. According to Article 13.1 of the Framework Convention complete ban of tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship leads to reduce tobacco products consumption.

### **Knowledge and Attitudes**

- *25.1% of students thought smoking helps people feel more comfortable at celebrations, parties, and social gatherings.*
- *81.8% of students think smoke from others is harmful to them.*
- *19% of adolescents think young people who smoke have more friends.*
- *29.2% of adolescents think young people who smoke looks more attractive.*

The existence of the wrong thinking among students about habits associated with smoking becomes clear from the survey results. The formation of a healthy and correct thinking related to tobacco is very important. It is important to involve parents and teachers to the tobacco control awareness programs. These activities can be more effective in terms of targeted anti tobacco awareness building of teens within the "National NCD Strategy and Operational Plan 2015-2020", the Ministry of Health's Strategic Plan for 2014-2020, as well as the "Healthy Education – Healthy Nation" project of the Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan Republic. Moreover, Article 12 of the Framework Convention helps countries to meet their obligation to strengthen public awareness and support in fight against tobacco. Promotion a healthy lifestyle and awareness about the dangers of tobacco use to health among population reflected in the "National NCD Strategy and Operational Plan 2015-2020" and in the Ministry of Health's Strategic Plan for 2014-202 and consistently implemented.

### **4.2 Comparison to Previous Tobacco Surveys**

- *The GYTS was conducted in 2016 indicated that number of students (mostly boys) in Azerbaijan had ever smoked cigarettes (10.3%) decreased slightly in comparison with 2011 GYTS results (10.6%), however rates of students currently smoked cigarettes were slightly raised up to 2.9% in comparison with previous survey results (2.7%). The prevalence of currently daily smoking cigarettes was 1% like in 2011.*
- *Smoking at home rates was 17.7% in 2011, however in 2016 have decline to 13.4%.*
- *In 2016, 32.6% of ever smokers reported that they began smoking before the age of 10 years old and this is less than figure from 2011 (36.6%).*

- *Number of never smokers, reported being susceptible to initiate smoking in the next year has decline from 8.7% to 8%.*
- *Although number of adolescents thinks young people who smoke have more friends have slightly increased up to 19.0% in comparison with previous survey (18.7%), adolescents thinks young people who smoke looks more attractive have significantly increased (from 19.1% to 29.2%).*
- *Although number of smokers bought their cigarettes in a store with no restriction for their age had increases during last five years from 59.1% to 64.8%, students had ever been offered free tobacco product have declined twice (from 12.2% to 5.9%), number of students has an object with a cigarette brand logo on it had decreases from 10.7% to 8.7%.*
- *Although number of students live in homes where others smoke slight increased in the 2016 in compare with 2011 (from 27.1% to 28.8%), number of students are exposed to smoke in enclosed public places increased up to 1.5 times (from 27.3% to 40.8%).*
- *Number of students thinks that smoking should be banned inside enclosed public places decreased from 94.0% to 82.8% and number of students thinks smoke from others is harmful to them decreased from 85.9% to 81.8%.*
- *Number of students has one or more parents who smoke increased in past five year from 40.5% to 42.6%.*
- *In 2016, 66.0% of students were taught in school about the dangers of tobacco use in the past year (65.5% in 2011).*
- *Number of smokers students tried to stop smoking in the past year has significant raise (from 53.7% in 2011 to 65% in 2016).*
- *Although in 2016, 62.3% of students saw or heard anti-tobacco media messages (72.3% in 2011); however, 68.9% saw anyone using tobacco on television, videos, or movies (61.0% in 2011).*

### **4.3 Relevance to FCTC**

*The results of this GYTS are critical for gauging progress toward WHO FCTC and MPOWER implementation and uptake.*

*Azerbaijan's participation in GYTS addresses the first element of MPOWER (Monitor tobacco use and prevention policies) for youth, and GYTS asks students a range of questions that spans many of the remaining elements of MPOWER. The resulting data are critical for gauging Azerbaijan's progress toward fully implementing the elements of MPOWER among its youth. The information provided by GYTS can address several provisions of the FCTC that relate to the role of school personnel and the comprehensive school tobacco control policy.*

- *Protect people from tobacco smoke: The GYTS data show that 41.5% of students are around others who smoke outside their home (69.2% in 2011) and 28.8% live in homes where others smoke in their presence (27.1% in 2011).*
- *Offer help to quit tobacco use: Results from GYTS show that students who currently smoke are interested in quitting. Of students who currently smoke:*
  - *65.6% want to stop smoking (61.8 % in 2011).*
  - *65.0% tried to stop smoking in the past year (53.7% in 2011).*
  - *26.0% have ever received help to stop smoking (44.3 % in 2011).*

- *Warn about the dangers of tobacco: During the past year, 66.0% of students had been taught in class about the dangers of smoking (65.5% in 2011). During last month among current smokers 74.3% of them noticed health warnings on cigarette packages.*
- *Enforce bans on tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship: The GYTS data show that 62.3% of students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days (72.3% in 2011). During last month 32.5% of students noticed tobacco advertisements or promotions at points of sale when visited these places, 68.9% (61.0% in 2011) noticed anyone using tobacco on television, videos, or movies when watched these ones. Further, 8.7% of students have an object with a cigarette brand logo (10.7% in 2011) and 5.9% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative (12.2% in 2011).*
- *Raise taxes on tobacco products: 15.7% of students think that cost of pack of cigarettes is 1-2 manats, 7.8% think 3 manats, others (10.8%) - less than 1 manat or more than 4 manats. 75.2% of cigarette smokers (59.1% in 2011) obtained the cigarette they last smoked from a store (generally boys). Generally among boys, 64.8% of current cigarette smokers (86.9% in 2011) were not prevented from buying cigarettes because of their age. Number of current cigarette smokers (generally boys) bought cigarettes in a pack and bought individual sticks were equal - 44.0%.*

*GYTS methodology provides an excellent framework for monitoring and guiding the implementation of school tobacco control programs while making it compliant with the requirements of FCTC. The results of this survey will be disseminated broadly, and ideally, used to adopt and implement effective legislative measures for preventing and reducing tobacco consumption, nicotine addiction, and exposure to tobacco smoke.*

#### **4.4 Relevance to Country**

- *Despite the existence of information on tobacco control, additional information on tobacco use among youth in Azerbaijan is significant. Therefore, conduct of the further research and scientific initiatives and assessments, and in so doing promote and encourage research that addresses the determinants and consequences of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke among youth can also be developed and implemented.*
- *Many youth report wanting to quit in Azerbaijan, therefore certain infrastructure elements in country will be needed to promote tobacco cessation and provide effective tobacco dependence treatment, especially toward teens. In this regard, creating of pilot medical consulting services on quit smoking and establishing a hot line for the population under the Public Health and Reforms Center of the Ministry of Health (PHRC) can be a starting point.*
- *The data suggests an early age of initiation of cigarette usage among country adolescents. Tobacco control education therefore needs to start at a very young age and account for reasons of adolescent smoke, especially data that many teens think their peers who smoke have more friends and are more attractive. Meantime awareness campaigns should be intensified among youth. School based anti-smoking campaigns could be conducted in frame of the World No Tobacco Day but there is need for regular education on the dangers of tobacco.*
- *Taxes of tobacco products in Azerbaijan still are low; it explains widespread availability of low-priced cigarettes. More of current young smokers in Azerbaijan have easy access to tobacco products buying cigarettes in a store despite laws on prohibits selling tobacco products to persons under 18. The main distribution channels for tobacco products in Azerbaijan are street vendors, small point of sales, kiosks; sale of tobacco products close to public places, such as in front of underground and transport stations, hospitals and schools are still very common. In this*

*regard strengthening of enforcement actions need to be effective undertaken. Moreover, absent of WHO FCTC required effective pictorial health warnings and messages on tobacco product packaging, that are key components of a comprehensive, integrated approach to tobacco control, could be the reason for buying and smoking cigarettes by adolescent and selling its to them by sellers, despite high penalties in national Code on Administrative violations but in absence of strong enforcement.*

- *The majority of youth in Azerbaijan report exposure to secondhand smoke in multiple venues. Almost all of them know harmful of this and supports ban of smoking from public places. Given that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, policies that will protect all people from possible exposure, especially strengthening national legislation for total ban of smoking in all public and working places, are strong needed.*
- *Students in Azerbaijan are still reporting being exposed to pro-smoking media messages and tobacco advertisements or promotions at retail points of sale. Controlling this exposure has been shown to reduce youth initiation. Ban of tobacco product displays at point of sales should be taken into account.*

## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

---

*Based on the most pressing GYTS findings, Azerbaijan should consider rapidly implementing expanded comprehensive tobacco control measures. Such action will save lives, reduce illness, and help reduce the economic burden associated with tobacco-related illness and lost productivity.*

- *A significant number of students were exposed to tobacco smoke at home and public places, and 82.8% of students believe smoking in public places should be banned. There is a need to pass laws that total ban tobacco smoking in public and work places and effectively enforce.*
- *Many students who smoke expressed the desire to quit smoking (65.6%) and many have even attempted to quit (65%). With the proper assistance and tools, those students could stop smoking forever. Creating of medical consulting services on quit smoking and establishing a hot line for the population could play a vital role as a resource for youth interested in quitting.*
- *Many youth were exposed to pro-cigarette advertising at points of sales (32.5%) and think tobacco point-of-sale displays motivate young people to smoke (1 in 3 of students). There is an urgent need to police more strictly the existing law banning all forms of advertisement, promotions and sponsorship of tobacco products, including total ban of tobacco product displays at retail point of sales in Azerbaijan, as well enact effective pictorial health warnings and messages on tobacco product packaging.*
- *Policy regarding rise of taxes of tobacco products in Azerbaijan is urgent in frame of formation of price policy to strict access of cigarettes to youth.*
- *To maintain a current understanding of tobacco use and other key indicators among youth and to gauge trends in WHO FCTC and MPOWER uptake and implementation, this survey should be completed at least every four years.*
- *A comprehensive health promotion strategy and school rules and policies should be strengthened for the prevention and control of tobacco use.*

## REFERENCES

---

1. WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic, 2011: Warning about the dangers of tobacco. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2011 ([http://www.who.int/tobacco/global\\_report/2011/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/tobacco/global_report/2011/en/index.html)).
2. Preventing tobacco use among youth and young adults: a report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2012 (<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/preventing-youth-tobacco-use/index.html>).
3. WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2003 ([http://www.who.int/tobacco/framework/WHO\\_FCTC\\_english.pdf](http://www.who.int/tobacco/framework/WHO_FCTC_english.pdf)).
4. Azerbaijan WHO FCTC report, 2016 (<http://apps.who.int/fctc/implementation/database/parties/Azerbaijan>).
5. WHO Report on the global tobacco epidemic (The MPOWER package). Geneva: World Health Organization, 2008 ([http://www.who.int/tobacco/mpower/mpower\\_report\\_full\\_2008.pdf](http://www.who.int/tobacco/mpower/mpower_report_full_2008.pdf)).
6. GYTS Fact Sheet. Azerbaijan, 2011 ([http://www.isim.az/upload/File/docs/Azerbaijan\\_GYTS\\_infobulleten\\_2011\\_EN.pdf](http://www.isim.az/upload/File/docs/Azerbaijan_GYTS_infobulleten_2011_EN.pdf)).
7. Statistical Yearbook of Azerbaijan, 2015 ([http://www.stat.gov.az/menu/6/statistical\\_yearbooks/indexen.php](http://www.stat.gov.az/menu/6/statistical_yearbooks/indexen.php)).
8. National Survey on Risk Factors for Chronic Noncommunicable Diseases in Azerbaijan. Final report, 2011 ([http://www.isim.az/upload/File/docs/NCD\\_Survey\\_Report\\_Nov\\_2012.pdf](http://www.isim.az/upload/File/docs/NCD_Survey_Report_Nov_2012.pdf)).
9. Law of the Azerbaijan Republic “On tobacco and tobacco products” (<http://www.tobaccocontrollaws.org/files/live/Azerbaijan/Azerbaijan%20-%20Law%20No.%20138-IIG%20.pdf>).
10. Law of the Azerbaijan Republic “On Advertising” (<http://www.tobaccocontrollaws.org/files/live/Azerbaijan/Azerbaijan%20-%20Law%20on%20Advertising.pdf>).
11. Law “On Television and Radio Broadcasting” (<http://www.tobaccocontrollaws.org/files/live/Azerbaijan/Azerbaijan%20-%20TV%20%26%20Radio%20Broadcasting%20Law.pdf>).
12. Azerbaijan Republic Rules of Passengers and Luggage Carriage on Road Transport (<http://www.tobaccocontrollaws.org/files/live/Azerbaijan/Azerbaijan%20-%20Road%20Transport%20Rules.pdf>).
13. The Tax Code of the Azerbaijan Republic (<http://www.taxes.gov.az/?name=qanun&cat=3>).

14. The Code of the Azerbaijan Republic On administrative violations (<http://www.e-qanun.az/code/24>).
15. The State Standard of Azerbaijan Republic AZS 335-2009 “Tobacco products. Packaging and marking” (<http://www.tobaccocontrolaws.org/files/live/Azerbaijan/Azerbaijan%20-%20AZS%20No.%20335-2009.pdf>).
16. National Clinical Protocol on Smoking Cessation (<http://www.tobaccocontrol.az/upload/File/catalog/10-2015/catalog-27-file.pdf>).
17. Reproductive Health Survey, Azerbaijan, 2001 ([http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/gender/vaw/surveys/Azerbaijan/Azerbaijan\\_Publication.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/gender/vaw/surveys/Azerbaijan/Azerbaijan_Publication.pdf)).
18. Azerbaijan: DHS, 2006 - Final Report; Chapter 14.4 – Use of tobacco: 188–189. (<http://www.measuredhs.com/publications/publication-FR195-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm>).
19. Azerbaijan Demographic and Health Survey, 2011 ([http://www.isim.az/upload/File/docs/Demographic\\_and\\_Health\\_Survey-2011.\\_Azerbaijan.\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.isim.az/upload/File/docs/Demographic_and_Health_Survey-2011._Azerbaijan._Final_Report.pdf)).
20. National Survey on Risk Factors for Chronic Noncommunicable Diseases in Azerbaijan, 2011 ([http://www.isim.az/upload/File/docs/NCD\\_Survey\\_Report\\_Nov\\_2012.pdf](http://www.isim.az/upload/File/docs/NCD_Survey_Report_Nov_2012.pdf)).
21. Study of trends in the prevalence of certain NCD risk factors among women in Azerbaijan, 2015 ([http://www.isim.az/upload/File/docs/Study\\_of\\_trends\\_in\\_th\\_prevalence\\_of\\_certain\\_NCD\\_risk\\_factors\\_among\\_women\\_in\\_Azerbaijan.pdf](http://www.isim.az/upload/File/docs/Study_of_trends_in_th_prevalence_of_certain_NCD_risk_factors_among_women_in_Azerbaijan.pdf)).
22. Comparative analysis of compliance of the tobacco related relevant legislation of Azerbaijan Republic with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, 2015 ([http://www.isim.az/upload/File/docs/AR\\_qanunvericiliyinin\\_tutune\\_qars%C4%B1\\_mubarize\\_haqinda\\_cercive\\_konvensiyasina\\_uygunluqu.pdf](http://www.isim.az/upload/File/docs/AR_qanunvericiliyinin_tutune_qars%C4%B1_mubarize_haqinda_cercive_konvensiyasina_uygunluqu.pdf)).

## APPENDIX A: QUESTIONNAIRE

---

### Instructions for use the questionnaire

- Please read each question carefully before answering it.
  - Choose the answer that best describes what you believe and feel to be correct.
  - Choose only **one** answer for each question.
  - On the answer sheet, locate the circle that corresponds to your answer and fill it in completely with the pencil that was provided to you.
  - Correctly fill in the bubbles like this: 
  - If you have to change your answer, don't worry, just erase filled circle completely, without leaving marks.
  - Your name or surname are not recorded in this Questionnaire and your answers remain confidential (anonymous).
- 

### Example:

24. Do you believe that fish live in water? 24.  (B) (C) (D) (E) (F) (G) (H)
- a. Definitely yes
  - b. Probably yes
  - c. Probably not
  - d. Definitely not

## Introduction

Thank you for participating in this survey. Before you start, please read the following information that will help you to answer the questions.

- Some of the questions related to smoking **cigarettes**.
- Other questions related to **smoking tobacco** in general that includes cigarettes and other types of smoked tobacco products.
- Other questions related to using **smokeless tobacco**, which is tobacco that is not smoked like cigarettes, but is chewed.
- Other questions related to any **tobacco use** or any **tobacco products** that includes smoking cigarettes, smoking tobacco other than cigarettes, and using smokeless tobacco.
- Below is a chart that provides examples of various tobacco products:

Any Tobacco Use	
Smoking Tobacco includes:	Smokeless Tobacco includes:
Cigarettes <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Manufactured cigarettes</li></ul> Other types of smoked tobacco: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Waterpipes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chewing tobacco</li></ul>

***THE FIRST QUESTIONS ASK FOR SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT YOURSELF.***

**1. How old are you?**

- a. 11 years old or younger
- b. 12 years old
- c. 13 years old
- d. 14 years old
- e. 15 years old
- f. 16 years old
- g. 17 years old or older

**2. What is your sex?**

- a. Male
- b. Female

**3. In what grade are you?**

- a. In 8-th grade
- b. In 9-th grade
- c. In 10-th grade

**4. Do your parents work?**

- a. Father only
- b. Mother only
- c. Both
- d. Neither
- e. Don't know

**5. During an average week, how much pocket money do you have that you can spend on yourself, however you want?**

- a. I usually don't have any **pocket** money
- b. Less than 1 manat
- c. 1 to 3 manats
- d. 4 to 6 manats
- e. 7 to 10 manats
- f. More than 10 manats

***THE NEXT QUESTIONS ASK ABOUT YOUR USE OF TOBACCO.***

- 6. Have you ever tried with cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs?**
- a. Yes
  - b. No
- 7. How old were you when you first smoking (tried) a cigarette?**
- a. I have never smoking cigarette
  - b. 7 years old or younger
  - c. 8 or 9 years old
  - d. 10 or 11 years old
  - e. 12 or 13 years old
  - f. 14 or 15 years old
  - g. 16 years old or older
- 8. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigarettes?**
- a. 0 days
  - b. 1 or 2 days
  - c. 3 to 5 days
  - d. 6 to 9 days
  - e. 10 to 19 days
  - f. 20 to 29 days
  - g. All 30 days
- 9. Where do you usually smoke?  
(SELECT ONLY ONE RESPONSE)**
- a. I do not smoke
  - b. At home
  - c. At school
  - d. At work
  - e. At friends' houses
  - f. At social events
  - g. In public spaces (e.g. parks, shopping centers, streets)
  - h. Other
- 10. Please think about the days you smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days. How many cigarettes did you usually smoke per day?**
- a. I did not smoke cigarettes during the past 30 days
  - b. Less than 1 cigarette per day
  - c. 1 cigarette per day
  - d. 2 to 5 cigarettes per day
  - e. 6 to 10 cigarettes per day
  - f. 11 to 20 cigarettes per day
  - g. More than 20 cigarettes per day

- 11. Have you ever tried with any form of smoked tobacco products other than cigarettes (e.g. smoking waterpipe)?**
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  
- 12. During the past 30 days, did you use any form of smoked tobacco products other than cigarettes (e.g. smoking waterpipe)?**
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  
- 13. Do you ever smoke tobacco or feel like smoking tobacco first thing in the morning?**
  - a. I don't smoke tobacco
  - b. No, I don't smoke tobacco or feel like smoking tobacco first thing in the morning
  - c. Yes, I sometimes smoke tobacco or feel like smoking tobacco first thing in the morning
  - d. Yes, I always smoke tobacco or feel like smoking tobacco first thing in the morning
  
- 14. How soon after you smoke tobacco do you start to feel a strong desire to smoke again that is hard to ignore?**
  - a. I don't smoke tobacco
  - b. I never feel a strong desire to smoke again after smoking tobacco
  - c. Within 60 minutes
  - d. 1 to 2 hours
  - e. More than 2 hours to 4 hours
  - f. More than 4 hours but less than one day
  - g. 1 to 3 days
  - h. 4 days or more
  
- 15. Have you ever tried with any form of smokeless tobacco products (e.g. chewing tobacco products)?**
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  
- 16. During the past 30 days, did you use any form of smokeless tobacco products (e.g. chewing tobacco products)?**
  - a. Yes
  - b. No

***THE NEXT QUESTIONS ASK ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS TOWARD STOPPING SMOKING.***

- 17. Do you want to stop smoking now?**
- a. I have never smoked
  - b. I don't smoke now
  - c. Yes
  - d. No
- 18. During the past 12 months, did you ever try to stop smoking?**
- a. I have never smoked
  - b. I did not smoke during the past 12 months
  - c. Yes
  - d. No
- 19. Do you think you would be able to stop smoking if you wanted to?**
- a. I have never smoked
  - b. I do not smoke now
  - c. Yes, I would be able to stop smoking if I wanted to
  - d. No, I would not be able to stop smoking if I wanted to
- 20. Have you ever received help or advice to help you stop smoking?  
(SELECT ONLY ONE RESPONSE)**
- a. I have never smoked
  - b. Yes, from professional
  - c. Yes, from a friend
  - d. Yes, from a family member
  - e. Yes, from both professionals and from friends or family members
  - f. No
- 21. How easy or difficult would you find it to go without smoking for as long as a week?**
- a. I have never smoked
  - b. I do not smoke now
  - c. Very difficult
  - d. Fairly difficult
  - e. Fairly easy
  - f. Very easy
- 22. How easy or difficult would you find it to give up smoking altogether if you wanted to?**
- a. I have never smoked
  - b. I do not smoke now
  - c. Very difficult
  - d. Fairly difficult
  - e. Fairly easy
  - f. Very easy

- 23. How long ago did you stop smoking?**
- a. I have never smoked
  - b. I have not stopped smoking
  - c. 1-3 months
  - d. 4-11 months
  - e. One year
  - f. 2 years
  - g. 3 years or longer
- 24. What was the main reason you decided to stop smoking?  
(SELECT ONE RESPONSE ONLY)**
- a. I have never smoked
  - b. I have not stopped smoking
  - c. To improve my health
  - d. To save money
  - e. Because my family does not like it
  - f. Because my friends do not like it
  - g. Other
- 25. When you stopped smoking, how did you feel about it?**
- a. I have never smoked
  - b. I have not stopped smoking
  - c. It was very difficult
  - d. It was rather difficult
  - e. It was rather easy
  - f. It was very easy

***THE NEXT QUESTIONS ASK ABOUT YOUR EXPOSURE TO OTHER PEOPLE'S SMOKING.***

- 26. How often do you see your father smoking in your home?**
- a. Don't have father
  - b. About every day
  - c. Sometimes
  - d. Never
- 27. How often do you see your brother/sister smoking in your home?**
- a. Don't have this person
  - b. About every day
  - c. Sometimes
  - d. Never

- 28. How often do you see other people smoking in your home?**
- a. Don't have (don't see) this person
  - b. About every day
  - c. Sometimes
  - d. Never
- 29. During the past 7 days, on how many days has anyone smoked inside your home, in your presence?**
- a. 0 days
  - b. 1 to 2 days
  - c. 3 to 4 days
  - d. 5 to 6 days
  - e. 7 days
- 30. During the past 7 days, on how many days has anyone smoked in your presence, inside any enclosed public place, other than your home (such as schools, shops, teahouses, cafes, restaurants, shopping malls, movie theaters)?**
- a. 0 days
  - b. 1 to 2 days
  - c. 3 to 4 days
  - d. 5 to 6 days
  - e. 7 days
- 31. During the past 7 days, on how many days has anyone smoked in your presence, at any outdoor public place (such as playgrounds, entrances to buildings, parks, bus stops)?**
- a. 0 days
  - b. 1 to 2 days
  - c. 3 to 4 days
  - d. 5 to 6 days
  - e. 7 days
- 32. During the past 7 days, on how many days has anyone smoked in your presence, inside any public transportation vehicles, such as trains, buses, or taxicabs?**
- a. I did not use public transportation during the past 7 days
  - b. I used public transportation but no one smoked in my presence
  - c. 1 to 2 days
  - d. 3 to 4 days
  - e. 5 to 6 days
  - f. 7 days

33. **During the past 30 days, did you see anyone smoke inside the school building or outside on school property?**
- a. Yes
  - b. No
34. **Do you think the smoke from other people's tobacco smoking is harmful to you?**
- a. Definitely not
  - b. Probably not
  - c. Probably yes
  - d. Definitely yes
35. **Are you in favor of banning smoking inside enclosed public places (such as schools, shops, work places, teahouses, cafes, restaurants, shopping malls, movie theaters)?**
- a. Yes
  - b. No
36. **Are you in favor of banning smoking at outdoor public places (such as playgrounds, entrances to buildings, parks, bus stops)?**
- a. Yes
  - b. No

***THE NEXT QUESTIONS ASK ABOUT GETTING CIGARETTES.***

37. **The last time you smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days, how did you get them? (SELECT ONLY ONE RESPONSE)**
- a. I did not smoke any cigarettes during the past 30 days
  - b. I bought them in a store
  - c. I bought them from a street vendor
  - d. I bought them at a kiosk
  - e. I got them from someone else
  - f. I got them some other way
38. **During the past 30 days, what brand of cigarettes did you usually smoke? (SELECT ONLY ONE RESPONSE)**
- a. I did not smoke cigarettes during the past 30 days
  - b. No usual brand of cigarettes
  - c. West
  - d. Kent
  - e. Parliament
  - f. Winston
  - g. Marlboro
  - h. Other brand of cigarettes

39. **During the past 30 days, did anyone refuse to sell you cigarettes because of your age?**
- I did not try to buy cigarettes during the past 30 days
  - Yes, someone refused to sell me cigarettes because of my age
  - No, my age did not keep me from buying cigarettes
40. **The last time you bought cigarettes during the past 30 days, how did you buy them?**
- I did not buy cigarettes during the past 30 days
  - I bought them in a pack
  - I bought individual sticks (singles)
  - I bought them in a carton
41. **On average, how much do you think a pack of 20 cigarettes costs?**
- Less than 1 manat
  - 1 to 2 manats
  - 3 manats
  - 4 to 5 manats
  - More than 5 manats
  - I don't know
42. **On the whole, do you find it easy or difficult to buy cigarettes from a shop?**
- I do not usually buy cigarettes from a shop
  - Very difficult
  - Fairly difficult
  - Fairly easy
  - Very easy
43. **Can you purchase cigarettes near your school?**
- Yes
  - No
  - I don't know
44. **How easy or difficult would it be for you to get cigarettes if you wanted some?**
- Very difficult
  - Fairly difficult
  - Fairly easy
  - Very easy
  - I don't know
45. **Do you think the price of cigarettes should be increased?**
- Yes
  - No

***THE NEXT QUESTIONS ASK ABOUT MESSAGES THAT ARE AGAINST USING TOBACCO (might include cigarettes, other smoked tobacco, and smokeless tobacco).***

46. During the past 30 days, did you see or hear any anti-tobacco (anti-cigarettes) media messages on television, radio, internet, billboards, posters, newspapers, magazines, or movies?
- Yes
  - No
47. During the past 30 days, did you see or hear any anti-smoking messages at sports events, fairs, concerts, community events, or social gatherings?
- I did not go to sports events, fairs, concerts, community events, or social gatherings in the past 30 days
  - Yes
  - No
48. During the past 30 days, did you see any health warnings on cigarette packages?
- Yes, but I didn't think much of them
  - Yes, and they led me to think about quitting smoking or not starting smoking
  - No
49. During the past 12 months, were you taught in any of your classes about the dangers of tobacco use?
- Yes
  - No
  - I don't know
50. During the past 30 days, did you see any signs stating that selling any tobacco products to adolescents are prohibited?
- Yes
  - No

***THE NEXT QUESTIONS ASK ABOUT ADVERTISEMENTS OR PROMOTIONS FOR TOBACCO (might include cigarettes, other smoked tobacco, and smokeless tobacco).***

51. During the past 30 days, did you see any people using tobacco on TV, in videos, or in movies?
- I did not watch TV, videos, or movies in the past 30 days
  - Yes
  - No
52. During the past 30 days, did you see any advertisements or promotions for tobacco products at points of sale (such as stores, kiosks, etc.)?
- I did not visit any points of sale in the past 30 days
  - Yes
  - No

- 53. Do you think tobacco point-of-sale displays (at stores, kiosks, shopping malls etc.) motivate young people to smoke?**
- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Don't know
- 54. During the past 30 days, did you see any advertisements for tobacco products in newspapers or magazines?**
- a. I did not read any newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days
  - b. Yes
  - c. No
- 55. During the past 30 days, did you see any advertisements or promotions for tobacco products at sports events, fairs, concerts, or community events?**
- a. I did not attend any sports events, fairs, concerts, or community events in the past 30 days
  - b. Yes
  - c. No
- 56. During the past 30 days, did you see any advertisements for tobacco products on the Internet?**
- a. I did not use the Internet in the past 30 days
  - b. Yes
  - c. No
- 57. Would you ever use or wear something that has a tobacco company or tobacco product name or picture on it such as a lighter, t-shirt, hat, or sunglasses?**
- a. Yes
  - b. Maybe
  - c. No
- 58. Do you have something (for example, t-shirt, pen, backpack) with a tobacco product (cigarette) brand logo on it?**
- a. Yes
  - b. No
- 59. Has a person working for a tobacco company ever offered you a free tobacco product?**
- a. Yes
  - b. No

***THE NEXT QUESTIONS ASK ABOUT YOUR ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS ABOUT USING TOBACCO.***

- 60. If one of your best friends offered you a tobacco product, would you use it?**
- a. Definitely not
  - b. Probably not
  - c. Probably yes
  - d. Definitely yes
- 61. At any time during the next 12 months do you think you will use any form of tobacco (e.g. smoking cigarettes)?**
- a. Definitely not
  - b. Probably not
  - c. Probably yes
  - d. Definitely yes
- 62. Once someone has started smoking tobacco, do you think it would be difficult for them to quit?**
- a. Definitely not
  - b. Probably not
  - c. Probably yes
  - d. Definitely yes
- 63. Do you think smoking cigarettes helps people feel more comfortable or less comfortable at celebrations, parties, or in other social gatherings?**
- a. More comfortable
  - b. Less comfortable
  - c. No difference whether smoking or not
- 64. Do you agree or disagree with the following: "I think I might enjoy smoking a cigarette."**
- a. I currently smoke cigarettes
  - b. Strongly agree
  - c. Agree
  - d. Disagree
  - e. Strongly disagree
- 65. Do your parents smoke cigarettes?**
- a. None
  - b. Both
  - c. Father only
  - d. Mother only
  - e. Don't know

- 66. Do any of your closest friends smoke cigarettes?**
- a. None of them
  - b. Some of them
  - c. Most of them
  - d. All of them
- 67. About how many students in your grade smoke cigarettes?**
- a. Most of them
  - b. About half of them
  - c. Some of them
  - d. None of them
- 68. Do you think young people who smoke cigarettes have more or less friends?**
- a. More friends
  - b. Less friends
  - c. No difference
- 69. Do you think smoking cigarettes makes young people look more or less attractive?**
- a. More attractive
  - b. Less attractive
  - c. No difference
- 70. Do you think smoking cigarettes is harmful to your health?**
- a. Definitely not
  - b. Probably not
  - c. Probably yes
  - d. Definitely yes
- 71. Do you think it is safe to smoke cigarettes for only a year or two as long as you quit after that?**
- a. Definitely not
  - b. Probably not
  - c. Probably yes
  - d. Definitely yes
- 72. Has anyone in your family discussed the harmful effects of smoking cigarettes with you?**
- a. Yes
  - b. No

73. **During the past 12 months, did you read in your school texts or books about the health effects of cigarettes?**
- a. Yes
  - b. No
74. **During the past 12 months, did you discuss in any of your classes the reasons why people your age smoke cigarettes?**
- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Not sure
75. **During the past 12 months, were you taught in any of your classes about the effects of smoking cigarettes like it makes your teeth yellow, causes wrinkles, or makes you smell bad?**
- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Not sure
76. **During school hours, how often do you see teachers smoking in the school building?**
- a. About every day
  - b. Sometimes
  - c. Never
  - d. Don't know
77. **During school hours, how often do you see teachers smoking outdoors on school premises?**
- a. About every day
  - b. Sometimes
  - c. Never
  - d. Don't know

***THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE SURVEY!***