

Metadata – Tobacco use

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| Description | <p>For adults : proportion of the population aged 15 years and over reporting to smoke on a daily basis (smoking includes the consumption of cigarettes, cigars, and pipes).</p> <p>For adolescents : proportion of adolescents aged 11-18 reporting to smoke regularly and on a daily basis.</p> |
| Rationale | <p>Tobacco use is considered to be one of the biggest public health threats. It is by far the main risk factor for a number of chronic diseases, including lung cancer and cardiovascular diseases. It is also one of the most preventable causes of morbidity and mortality in the world today. Urgent action is necessary; otherwise, according to the WHO, the number of people dying from tobacco use worldwide each year will increase by a quarter by 2030. This indicator is one of the ECHI indicators (1) and is also considered an important indicator of health promotion outcome (2).</p> <p>Among teenagers, 3.8% smoked daily in 2018. This percentage is considerably lower than in 2006 (10%). More boys than girls smoke daily, and students in vocational and technical education are more likely to be daily smokers than those in general education. Despite the decline in the prevalence of tobacco consumption among young people, an increase in the use of e-cigarettes has been observed.</p> |
| Primary Data source | <p>Sciensano: Health Interview Surveys, Belgium 1997-2001-2004-2008-2013-2018</p> <p>European Health Interview Survey (EHIS)</p> <p>For adolescents, two distinct HBSC surveys are conducted in Belgium:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– HBSC in the French community (conducted by the Université libre de Bruxelles - SIPES)– - HBSC in the Flemish community (conducted by the University of Ghent) |
| Indicator source | <p>Sciensano for the Belgian HIS;</p> <p>Eurostat for the EHIS for international comparisons; data are also published by the OECD (Health Data) (4).</p> <p>HBSC French community 2006-2018</p> <p>HBSC Flemish community 2006-2018</p> <p>HBSC international report 2017/2018</p> |
| Periodicity | <p>Every 3-5 years</p> <p>Every 4 years (HBSC)</p> |
| Calculation/ technical definitions | <p>Adults</p> <p>Percentage (weighted percentage, according to the survey design) of people aged 15 years and older participating in the Health Interview Survey (HIS) reporting that they smoke every day.</p> <p>The indicator is derived from the combination of 2 questions of the HIS; there were slight changes between the different surveys, but those did not impact the comparability of the indicator over time.</p> <p>1997 and 2001: TA.01: Do you smoke? Yes, every day; Yes, from time to time; No.</p> <p>2004: TA.01: Have you ever smoked at least 100 cigarettes, or the equivalent amount of tobacco, in your lifetime? Only when the answer is 'yes', the next question is asked.TA.02: Do you smoke at the moment? Yes, every day; Yes, from time to time; No.</p> |

2008: TA01: idem; TA.05: Do you smoke at all nowadays? Yes, daily; Yes, occasionally; Not at all.

2013: TA01: idem; TA.06: Do you smoke at all nowadays? Yes, daily; Yes, occasionally; Not at all.

2018: TA.02: Have you ever smoked at least 100 cigarettes, or the equivalent amount of tobacco, in your lifetime? TA.06: Do you smoke at all nowadays? Yes, daily; Yes, occasionally; Not at all.

Direct age-standardisation was made using the Belgian population 2018.

Adolescents

Lifetime consumption: during the survey, 2nd-3rd level secondary school adolescents were asked the age at which they had first used tobacco. The gender distribution of age of tobacco experimentation among students who indicated that they had used tobacco in their lifetime can thus be described.

To assess current tobacco consumption, adolescents were asked: "Do you currently smoke tobacco? Four response options were offered : "every day", "not every day but every week", "less than once a week" and "I do not smoke". These last three response categories were grouped together to describe daily smoking.

International comparability

Adults

Availability: Yes, the last EHIS in 2014.

Comparability: The questions are part of the EHIS and of the national HIS; the EHIS results for this indicator are published by EUROSTAT and the OECD. The indicator definition and the methodology are quite comparable between countries. Many efforts are performed at European level to harmonize the methods and the definitions. Some small differences exist regarding the year of the survey and sometimes the formulation of the question.

Adolescents

Availability: Yes, the HBSC is realized across 50 countries and regions.

Comparability: The HBSC international standard questionnaire enables the collection of common data across participating countries. These data allow cross-national comparisons.

Metadata – Use of e-cigarette

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| Description | Proportion of the population aged 15 years and over reporting to use at least once a week an e-cigarette. |
| Rationale | Electronic cigarettes were first developed as a mean to quit smoking tobacco. Nowadays, the range of products has broadened, vaping has become a fashion trend, and teenagers start using electronic cigarettes before smoking tobacco. It is still too early to assess the long term health effects of this practice, but it is advised that non-smokers do not start vaping. |
| Primary Data source | Belgium: Sciensano, Health Interview Surveys, 2018 Europe Union: Eurobarometer 458 For adolescents, two distinct HBSC surveys are conducted in Belgium: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– HBSC in the French community (conducted by the Université libre de Bruxelles - SIPES)– HBSC in the Flemish community (conducted by the University of Ghent) |
| Indicator source | Sciensano for the Belgian HIS; Eurostat for the Eurobarometer 458 HBSC French community 2018 HBSC Flemish community 2018 |
| Periodicity | Every 3-5 years Every 4 years (HBSC) |
| Calculation/ technical definitions | Health Interview Survey Percentage (weighted percentage, according to the survey design) of people aged 15 years and older participating in the Health Interview Survey (HIS) reporting that they use at least once a week an e-cigarette. This indicator is based on the answer to the following question. If people reported one of the 2 first answers, they were considered as users of e-cigarette. EC02: Are you currently using e-cigarettes? <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Yes, every day2. Yes, once a week or more, but not daily3. Yes, once a month or more but not each week4. Yes, less than monthly5. No, not at all Direct age-standardisation was made using the Belgian population 2018. Eurobarometer 458 Percentage (weighted percentage, according to the survey design) of people aged 15 years and older participating in the Eurobarometer 458 reporting that they use at least once a week an e-cigarette. The following question was used to identify regular users of electronic cigarette: QB12a: How often do you use electronic cigarettes or similar electronic devices (e.g. e-shisha, e-pipe)? <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Every day2. Every week3. Every month4. Less than monthly HBSC In order to describe cigarette use among adolescents, they were asked to answer the following question "Have you used an electronic cigarette in the |

last 30 days?" and a scale of seven response modalities ranging from "never" to "30 days" were proposed. Since the numbers observed in the "1 to 2 days", "3 to 5 days", "6 to 9 days", "10 to 19 days", "20 to 29 days" and "30 days" were very low, it was decided to dichotomize the indicator in order to identify those students who had used electronic cigarettes at least one day in the thirty days preceding the survey.

International comparability

Adults

Availability: Yes, in the Eurobarometer 458

Comparability: In the Eurobarometer, sample size are small and lack power for the country comparisons

International comparison is not yet available for adolescents

Reference List

- (1) Verschuuren M, Achterberg PW, Gijzen R, Harbers MM, Vijge E, Wilk EA, et al. ECHI Indicator Development and Documentation - Joint action for ECHIM final Report Part II. II ed. RIVM; 2012.
- (2) Marshall M, Klazinga N, Leatherman S, Hardy C, Bergmann E, Pisco L, et al. OECD Health Care Quality Indicator Project. The expert panel on primary care prevention and health promotion. Int J Qual Health Care 2006 Sep;18:Suppl-5.
- (3) OECD. OECD Health Data 2015. OECD; 2015.