

PREVALENCE OF SMOKING

4.1. By Sex

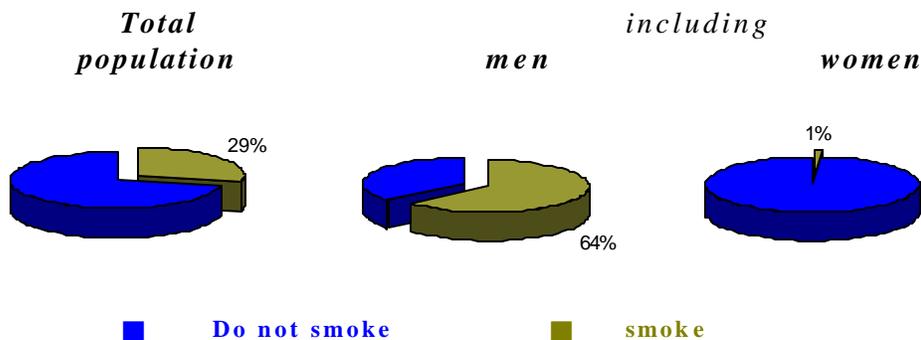
According to the sample frame results, 29.0 % of the 16 - 75 age group are smoking; of these, 63.7% are men and 1.24% are women.

The figures on prevalence of smoking are presented in the table below.

Table 4. Ratio of smokers vs. non smokers

	<i>Total participants Of the survey</i>		<i>Of which</i>			
	<i>persons</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>smoke</i>		<i>Do not smoke</i>	
			<i>persons</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>persons</i>	<i>%</i>
Total	15,146	100	4,397	29.0	10,749	71.0
<i>persons</i>						
<i>%</i>	100	x	100	x	100	x
<i>including ^a</i>						
men	6,742	100	4,293	63.7	2,449	36.3
<i>%</i>	44.5	x	97.6	x	22.8	x
women	8,404	100	104	1.24	8,300	98.76
<i>%</i>	55.5	x	2.4	x	77.2	x

Chart 2. Percentage of smokers and non-smokers



The sample survey and other expert assessments indicate that the number of smoking women may be much higher than that identified in the course of the survey. Specifically, according to the opinion of experts who implemented a tobacco market survey in Armenia at the beginning of 1997 (team leader Doctor of Economics, professor Suren Karapetian) ordered by "MASMI" Moscow organisation, 15 - 18% of women in Armenia smoke; of these, 20 - 25% are urban and 5% rural residents.

4.2. By Age Groups

According to the findings of the survey, the share of smoking population is especially big in the age group of 40-44 years - 36.6% (including about 75,0 % of men and about 2.0% of women).

This share is considerably smaller in the age groups below and above the aforementioned one: in the age group of above 70 years it is 20.4 % (including about 47 % of men and only 0.6 % of women), and in the age group of 15-19 years where it is 7,6% (including 19,6% of men, with no women smokers registered in the group).

Box 1. Smoking In The World

The smoking is a phenomenon that spreads or contracts, grows or decreases depending on the welfare of the population. This statement is supported by smoking dynamics by country: the level of smoking drops in the countries where the standards of living are high, and that implement consistent policy of decreasing the level of smoking or rather promote non-smoking (the latter is effectively possible only in cases when a certain and rather high standard of living is ensured). Thus, according to figures of UNDP Human Development Report 1997¹, in 1990 - 1992 the tobacco consumption (per capita of population of above 16 years of age) in developing countries increased by 13% compared to 1970 - 1972. These countries are characterised by low per capita GDP - US\$2,904 (PPP calculated). In least developed countries, tobacco consumption increased by 33% (US\$965) , and in sub-Saharan Africa by 20% (US\$1,377). At the same time, in industrially developed countries the tobacco consumption decreased by 7% (US\$6,037). During the same period, the number of smokers in the world increased by 3% (US\$5,798).

Tobacco consumption and prevalence of smoking are definitely affected by several other factors like national specificities or education level of the population. It is noteworthy that prevalence of smoking among women is much higher in industrially developed countries than in the developing ones - 24% and 8% respectively. The information on the number of smokers by sex and country is also interesting. According to such statistics, for example, in Northern America 28% of men and 24% of women are smokers, in Northern Europe these ratios are 29% and 28% respectively, and in Western and Southern Europe these are 39% and 25%. In the countries of European Community the ratio of smokers is 37% and 25% respectively, and in the countries of Economic Cooperation and Development it stands at 39% and 23%.

When drawing conclusions on the number of smokers in different age groups, it should be taken into account that the national mentality impacts the data received: thus, the age groups of 15 - 19 and 20 - 24 years are characterised by a considerable number of covert smokers who did not want to publicize their smoking or the family member feeling the questionnaire in their stead was not aware of the fact. The above statement is especially true of the women of these age groups. It is noteworthy that the ratio of smoking women vs. the total number of smokers fluctuates considerably not only between age groups, but also geographically (see annex 2).

Table 5. Distribution of smokers vs. non-smokers by age and sex groups

Age Groups	Total participating persons	of which		including			
		smoke	do not smoke	men		women	
				smoke	do not smoke	smoke	do not smoke
16-19	1178	89	1089	89	366	0	723
20-24	1505	358	1147	350	265	8	882
25-29	1496	445	1051	443	206	2	845

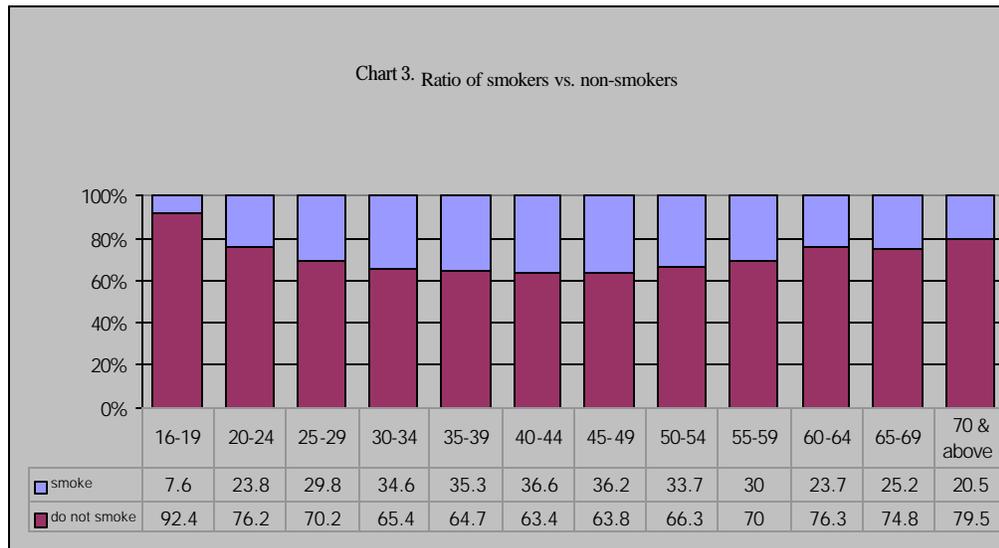
¹ Human Development Report 1997, New York, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1997, pp. 148 and 177

30-34	1580	546	1034	534	173	12	861
35-39	2044	722	1322	707	221	15	1101
40-44	1638	599	1039	582	195	17	844
45-49	1237	448	789	425	159	23	630
50-54	676	228	448	220	108	8	340
55-59	1040	312	728	303	149	9	579
60-64	1067	253	814	252	217	1	597
65-69	1108	279	829	272	259	7	570
70 and above	577	118	459	116	131	2	328
TOTAL	15146	4397	10749	4293	2449	104	8300

The ratio of smoking men is particularly high in the age group of 35-39 years - 76.2%, and that of smoking women in the age group of 45-49 years - 3.5%:

Table 6. Ratio of smokers vs. non-smokers by age and sex groups

Age Groups	Total in the sample frame			Men			WOMEN		
	total %	including		total %	including		total %	including	
		smoke	do not smoke		smoke	do not smoke		smoke	do not smoke
16-19	100	7.6	92.4	100	19.6	80.4	100	0.0	100.0
20-24	100	23.8	76.2	100	56.9	43.1	100	0.9	99.1
25-29	100	29.8	70.2	100	68.3	31.7	100	0.2	99.8
30-34	100	34.6	65.4	100	75.5	24.5	100	1.4	98.6
35-39	100	35.3	64.7	100	76.2	23.8	100	1.3	98.7
40-44	100	36.6	63.4	100	74.9	25.1	100	2.0	98.0
45-49	100	36.2	63.8	100	72.8	27.2	100	3.5	96.5
50-54	100	33.7	66.3	100	67.1	32.9	100	2.3	97.7
55-59	100	30.0	70.0	100	67.0	33.0	100	1.5	98.5
60-64	100	23.7	76.3	100	53.7	46.3	100	0.2	99.8
65-69	100	25.2	74.8	100	51.2	48.8	100	1.2	98.8
70 and above	100	20.5	79.5	100	47.0	53.0	100	0.6	99.4
TOTAL	100	29.0	71.0	100	63.7	36.3	100	1.2	98.8



4.3. By occupational status

Of interest is the analysis of tobacco consumption by the level of economic activity of the population. According to the responses to the survey questionnaire, smoke 39.6% of employed population (men - 69.7%, women - 2.7%), and only 24.8% of the unemployed (men - 60.4% and women - 0.8%).

In the employed population of the sample frame, the prevalence of smoking is particularly high among employers (70.5%) and self-employed (57.5%), and is the lowest among hired workers (35.1%).

In the group of unemployed population of the sample frame, the highest rate of smoking is among those who "have not had work" (42.3%) and "unemployed due to other reasons" (29.0%). In these groups, the ratio of men constituted 70.7% and 57.8% respectively.

The above ratios were affected by several factors like:

◆ *first*, men prevailed in the group of employed and accounted for 55.1% of the sample frame (this percentage was particularly high among employers (95.1%) and self-employed (78.6%)), and women account for the majority of the unemployed (59.8%) and hired workers (50.8%). Since smoking is *a priori* more prevalent among men, it is natural that the ratio of smokers should be higher in the employed population group, and in the groups whereby majority is constituted by women (unemployed and hired workers) the ratio of smokers will be lower.

◆ *second*, smoking is costly and not everyone can afford these costs. According to the survey results, the average daily cost of cigarettes per one smoker was AMD 137.5, and the average monthly cost - AMD 4,125. Naturally, the impact of this factor in the unemployed group is higher than in the employed one. Besides solvency differences among the employed and the unemployed, there are differences in the quality and variety of the cigarettes consumed. Thus, foreign make cigarettes and local filter cigarettes are smoked by 85.5% of the employed and 73.8% of the unemployed, and foreign make filter cigarettes are smoked by 57% and 35.9% of employed and unemployed respectively. Local make filter cigarettes are smoked by 68.5% of employed smokers and 60.7% of unemployed smokers (see annexes 3 and 4).

Box 2. Prevalence of Smoking In Countries of European Commission²

Interesting information on the number of smokers is presented in a periodic report "Economy of France" published by Statistics and Economic Research Institute of France (INSEE). According to the data contained in the last issue, as of 1998, in France 35% (8 million people) of men and 23% (5.5 million people) of women are regular smokers. While the ratio of smoking men dropped from 47% in 1980 down to 35% in 1998, the ratio of smoking women increased by 6% and in 1998 amounted 23%. The above indicators are particularly high among men of 25 - 39 years of age (45%) and among women of 18 - 29 years of age (37%). At the same time, the decreased prevalence of smoking was definitely the result of influence of such factors as increased prices of cigarettes that resulted in a decrease of consumption by 11% during 1991 - 1996; at the same time, it

Table 1. Distribution of 1998 tobacco consumption in social classes (presented in table 2. of the 1998 guide) and *Table 2. Rates of regular smokers in countries of Europe* (from the 1980 guide) according to the 1980 classification, the highest ratio of smokers was registered for men among workers (51.5%), and for women among office workers (30.1%). The social and professional

	Men		WOMEN			Men	WOME N
	1980	1998	1980	1998			
Farmers	33.5	18.7	2.6	4.8	Germany (Bonn) (1995)	35	22
Craftsmen, vendors, enterprise managers	44.8	33.4	14.9	28.6	Germany (Berlin) (1995)	37	19
Civil servants	45.2	28.4	27.9	27.5	Austria (1995)	40	25
Dealers	47.0	38.4	25.7	27.7	Belgium (1997)	31	22
Office workers	52.3	42.6	23.6	30.1	Denmark (1997)	37	31
Workers	55.5	51.5	18.9	29.7	Spain (1997)	45	27
Pensioners	34.6	14.1	3.7	7.4	Finland (1998)	30	20
Total	46.9	34.9	16.7	22.8	France*** (1998)	35	23
					Greece (1994-1995)	49	28
					Ireland ** (1993-1994)	29	28
					Italy** (1996)	35	18
					Luxemburg (1998)	39	27
					Netherlands (1997)	37	31
					Portugal (1994-1995)	38	15
					United Kingdom**	29	28

* 18 and above years of age

² Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques (INSEE), *Tableaux de l'économie française 1999/2000*, (TEF 1999/2000), page 67

4.4. By education level

The ratio of smokers by education level (see annex 5) is especially high among graduates of vocation training institutions - 39.7%; in the categories with higher, incomplete higher and secondary professional education, it amounted 28.4% on the average (30.9%, 22.4% and 27% by levels accordingly). The ratio of smokers among the population with primary education is 21.9%, and that among the population without primary education is 11.9%. The low ratio of smokers in the latter two groups is preconditioned not by the low education level, but rather by the fact that this group is dominated by elderly persons whose smoking is limited by age and health considerations.

4.5. By marzes of Armenia

The prevalence of smoking in geographic terms (see annex 2) does not demonstrate considerable fluctuation of the ratio of smokers by marzes of Armenia (from 24.0% to 33.8%), which implicitly indicates at reliability of the survey findings.

The ratio of smokers is particularly high in Syunik marz (33.8%), including 69.3% among men; these indicators are higher than the average by 4.8% and 5.6% respectively.

The ratio of smokers is particularly low in Tavush marz (24.0% among the total population and 58.1% among men).

No facts on smoking by women were identified in Aragatzotn, Ararat, Lori, Shirak, Tavush and Vayotz Dzor marzes. The highest ratio of smoking women was registered in Yerevan (2.2%).

The ratio of smoking population among those covered by the survey in Yerevan is 29.2% and is closer to the national average indicator of 29.0%; for men, these indicators amount 63.6% and 63.7% respectively.