

Table 12.1 Type of health insurance coverage

Percentage of adults with health insurance coverage, by background characteristics, Moldova 2005

Background characteristic	Women						Men						Total
	Percentage with any health insurance	No health insurance	Health insurance through employer/education institute	Social security	Other privately purchased commercial health insurance	Total <sup>1</sup>	Number of women	Percentage with any health insurance	No health insurance	Health insurance through employer/education institution	Social security	Other privately purchased commercial health insurance	
<b>Age</b>													
15-19	54.8	45.2	18.8	35.1	0.3	100.0	1,417	52.1	47.9	18.6	32.6	1.4	100.0
20-24	51.8	48.2	33.4	17.8	0.7	100.0	1,124	42.1	57.9	32.4	8.6	1.7	100.0
25-29	43.1	56.9	35.9	6.1	1.2	100.0	964	48.1	51.9	41.1	5.8	1.8	100.0
30-34	52.9	47.1	45.9	5.4	1.8	100.0	924	44.4	55.6	39.4	2.3	2.7	100.0
35-39	50.9	49.1	45.2	4.8	1.0	100.0	855	50.5	49.5	44.0	4.1	2.4	100.0
40-44	56.6	43.4	50.0	5.4	1.3	100.0	1,007	52.1	47.9	43.1	7.0	2.0	100.0
45-49	54.6	45.4	46.4	6.2	1.7	100.0	1,149	48.5	51.5	40.7	5.6	2.0	100.0
50-54	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	55.1	44.9	40.2	12.5	2.7	100.0
55-59	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	55.0	45.0	35.7	17.6	1.7	100.0
<b>Residence</b>													
Urban	61.4	38.6	47.9	12.3	1.2	100.0	3,194	62.2	37.8	48.5	11.8	2.2	100.0
Rural	45.6	54.4	30.7	13.7	1.0	100.0	4,246	41.0	59.0	27.1	12.1	1.8	100.0
<b>Region</b>													
North	49.7	50.3	34.3	14.2	1.1	100.0	2,207	43.6	56.4	30.0	12.1	1.5	100.0
Center	45.9	54.1	31.8	13.1	0.6	100.0	2,033	46.3	53.7	29.8	15.1	1.5	100.0
South	52.3	47.7	38.0	12.8	1.6	100.0	1,402	48.8	51.2	36.2	10.3	2.6	100.0
Chisinau	63.1	36.9	50.0	11.9	1.2	100.0	1,798	64.1	35.9	52.5	9.2	2.9	100.0
<b>Education</b>													
No education/primary	(31.8)	(68.2)	(15.2)	(13.2)	(3.3)	100.0	49	*	*	*	*	*	100.0
Secondary	41.5	58.5	26.0	14.4	1.0	100.0	4,534	42.0	58.0	28.2	12.0	1.8	100.0
Secondary special	61.8	38.2	52.2	7.8	1.7	100.0	1,327	60.1	39.9	46.9	10.5	2.7	100.0
Higher	76.9	23.1	62.5	13.8	0.8	100.0	1,530	77.6	22.4	64.1	12.3	2.3	100.0
<b>Wealth quintile</b>													
Lowest	35.3	64.7	20.1	14.0	1.1	100.0	1,243	29.2	70.8	18.9	9.5	0.8	100.0
Second	43.3	56.7	29.3	13.8	0.2	100.0	1,234	37.2	62.8	24.0	11.7	1.7	100.0
Middle	50.9	49.1	36.6	13.0	1.1	100.0	1,511	50.5	49.5	34.5	14.6	1.3	100.0
Fourth	60.4	39.6	44.7	14.2	1.4	100.0	1,672	57.2	42.8	40.9	13.2	3.3	100.0
Highest	64.3	35.7	51.9	11.0	1.4	100.0	1,780	69.3	30.7	56.6	10.7	2.5	100.0
Total	52.4	47.6	38.1	13.1	1.1	100.0	7,440	49.9	50.1	36.1	12.0	2.0	100.0

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

na = Not applicable

<sup>1</sup>Total includes less than 1 percent of cases with other source of health insurance

## 12.2 TOBACCO USE

Smoking has a powerful negative impact on the population's health. It causes cardiovascular diseases, lung cancer, and other pathologies, both among smokers and people exposed to secondary cigarette smoke. In the Republic of Moldova, the death rate due to smoking-related causes is one of the highest in the CIS states and the European Union (WHO, 2006). Estimates show that for every one Euro that consumers spend on tobacco products, there is 0.3 Euros spent on the treatment of diseases related to the use of tobacco (Ursu-Moraru, 2006).

Because smoking is a conscious choice made by an individual, it follows that morbidity and mortality caused by the use of tobacco products could be prevented. Over recent years, the WHO has invested efforts in the development of a Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), a convention signed by 156 countries and ratified already by 119 countries. The Republic of Moldova is among the countries in the process of ratifying the Convention. The National Health Policy recently

own up by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection also contains a separate chapter dedicated to combating tobacco addiction—yet another acknowledgement of this issue being one of high priority in Moldova.

Traditionally, smoking was not widespread in the Moldova. However, probably because of the low price of cigarettes, access to tobacco products and their use has been on the rise. People in Moldova use tobacco almost exclusively in the form of cigarettes. Results of the 2005 DHS in Tables 12.2.1 and 12.2.2 show a significant difference in the prevalence of smoking between men and females: 51 percent of men and 7 percent of women report that they currently smoke cigarettes. Smoking among women is much more common in urban areas (14 percent) than rural areas (2 percent). In men, the difference by urban-rural residence is reversed: 49 percent in urban areas and 53 percent in rural areas.

Table 12.2.1 Use of tobacco: women

Percentage of women who smoke cigarettes or use other tobacco, and percent distribution of cigarette smokers by number of cigarettes smoked in preceding 24 hours, according to background characteristics and maternity status, Moldova 2005

Background characteristic	Tobacco use		Number of women	Number of cigarettes smoked in preceding 24 hours:				Don't know/missing	Total	Number of cigarette smokers
	Percentage of women who smoke cigarettes	Percentage of women who use other tobacco		1-2	3-5	6-9	10+			
<b>Age</b>										
15-19	4.3	0.0	1,417	18.1	32.4	11.9	34.5	3.1	100.0	62
20-34	9.8	0.0	3,012	16.1	25.8	12.5	40.7	4.9	100.0	294
35-49	5.8	0.0	3,011	16.4	24.2	17.6	40.7	1.1	100.0	176
<b>Residence</b>										
Urban	13.6	0.0	3,194	16.2	24.7	14.0	42.6	2.6	100.0	434
Rural	2.3	0.0	4,246	17.5	32.2	14.8	28.5	7.1	100.0	98
<b>Region</b>										
North	4.3	0.0	2,207	17.6	30.6	16.6	33.3	1.9	100.0	94
Center	3.5	0.0	2,033	19.9	26.1	11.1	34.0	8.8	100.0	71
South	3.8	0.1	1,402	27.9	24.3	14.8	30.5	2.5	100.0	53
Chisinau	17.4	0.0	1,798	13.3	25.0	14.0	44.9	2.8	100.0	313
<b>Education</b>										
No education/primary	(18.2)	(0.0)	49	*	*	*	*	*	100.0	9
Secondary	5.7	0.0	4,534	14.2	27.4	15.8	39.9	2.8	100.0	257
Secondary special	7.0	0.0	1,327	19.5	23.7	15.0	40.1	1.7	100.0	93
Higher	11.3	0.0	1,530	18.1	24.3	11.9	40.2	5.5	100.0	173
<b>Maternity status</b>										
Pregnant	0.8	0.0	178	*	*	*	*	*	100.0	1
Breastfeeding (not pregnant)	2.3	0.0	339	*	*	*	*	*	100.0	8
Neither	7.5	0.0	6,923	16.1	26.3	14.4	39.9	3.4	100.0	522
<b>Wealth quintile</b>										
Lowest	1.2	0.0	1,243	*	*	*	*	*	100.0	14
Second	2.4	0.0	1,234	(13.3)	(37.6)	(12.3)	(32.0)	(4.9)	(100.0)	30
Middle	3.1	0.0	1,511	20.7	30.3	14.3	29.5	5.2	100.0	47
Fourth	8.4	0.0	1,672	19.3	22.7	14.9	39.1	3.9	100.0	141
Highest	16.8	0.0	1,780	15.4	25.5	13.8	42.6	2.6	100.0	300
<b>Total</b>	7.1	0.0	7,440	16.4	26.1	14.1	40.0	3.4	100.0	531

\* Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

Table 12.2.2 Use of tobacco: men

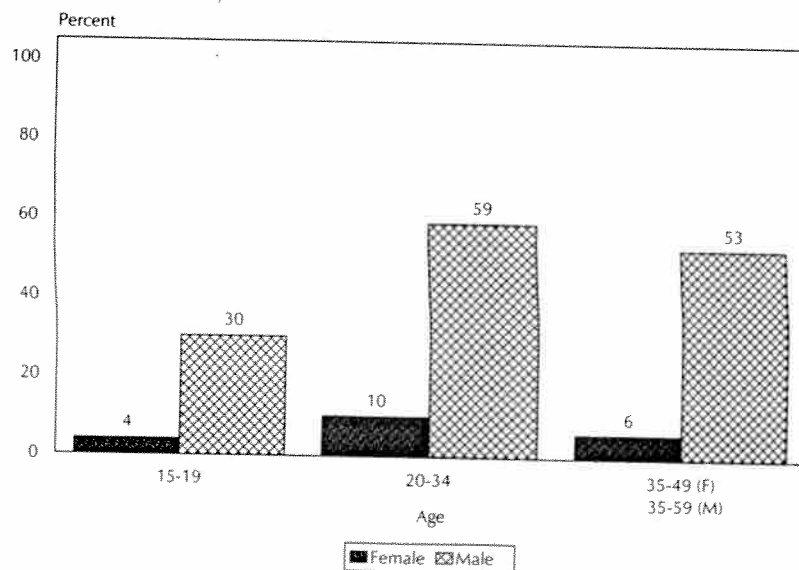
Percentage of men who smoke cigarettes or use other tobacco, and percent distribution of cigarette smokers by number of cigarettes in preceding 24 hours, according to background characteristics, Moldova 2005

Background characteristic	Tobacco use		Number of men	Number of cigarettes smoked in preceding 24 hours:					Don't know/missing	Total
	Percent - age of men who smoke cigarettes	Percent - age of men who use other tobacco		1-2	3-5	6-9	10+			
<b>Age</b>										
15-19	30.0	0.2	411	5.4	13.7	15.4	64.8	0.8	100.0	
20-34	59.1	0.1	733	3.8	8.0	5.1	82.8	0.3	100.0	
35-59	53.2	0.3	1,363	1.9	5.2	3.2	89.1	0.6	100.0	
<b>Residence</b>										
Urban	48.9	0.4	1,055	3.3	7.4	4.8	83.9	0.6	100.0	
Rural	52.7	0.1	1,453	2.6	6.7	5.1	85.2	0.5	100.0	
<b>Region</b>										
North	56.8	0.2	756	2.5	6.3	5.5	85.5	0.2	100.0	
Center	48.9	0.3	702	4.1	7.3	5.2	82.7	0.6	100.0	
South	48.9	0.3	496	1.8	6.5	4.3	86.5	0.8	100.0	
Chisinau	48.2	0.2	554	2.8	8.1	4.4	84.1	0.6	100.0	
<b>Education</b>										
No education/primary	*	*	16	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Secondary	54.1	0.3	1,788	2.2	6.6	5.1	85.7	0.4	100.0	
Secondary special	49.1	0.3	302	2.7	5.9	3.8	86.0	1.6	100.0	
Higher	39.6	0.3	403	7.1	10.7	5.2	77.0	0.0	100.0	
<b>Wealth quintile</b>										
Lowest	60.0	0.3	450	1.9	6.2	6.5	84.0	1.3	100.0	
Second	56.5	0.0	470	3.2	4.4	4.5	87.9	0.0	100.0	
Middle	49.2	0.3	464	2.3	9.5	4.0	83.9	0.3	100.0	
Fourth	46.8	0.2	561	2.6	7.3	5.0	84.8	0.2	100.0	
Highest	45.4	0.0	563	4.3	7.9	4.7	82.5	0.6	100.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>2,508</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>84.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

Note: An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

Age is also a characteristic associated with smoking. People in the age group 20-34 are the most likely to smoke. The percentage of cigarette smokers in the three age groups is shown by sex (Figure 12.1).

Figure 12.1 Percentage of Cigarette Smokers, by Age Group and Sex



The share of smokers also depends on wealth status; however, the influence of this factor differs between females and males. The proportion of female smokers in the poorest households is only 17 percent, compared with 17 percent of women in the wealthiest households. An inverse phenomenon is observed in males: the prevalence of smoking is 60 percent in the poorest households and decreases to 45 percent in the wealthiest households.

A similar pattern is observed between smoking and the level of education—smoking is less prevalent among males with higher education, while women with higher education smoke more frequently than those having a lower level of education.

Among males who smoke, 90 percent smoke 6 or more cigarettes per day (Table 12.2.2). By comparison, only 54 percent of female smokers consume as many cigarettes.

The prevalence of smoking among males is highest in the North region (57 percent) compared with 48-49 percent in other regions. The prevalence of female smokers, unlike that of males, is more than four times higher in Chisinau than in other regions.

### 12.3 ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

Alcohol abuse is a serious problem in many countries in Europe. This region registers the highest alcohol consumption in the world, and alcohol consumption is considered to be the third highest risk factor for death and disability. Potential consequences of alcohol abuse include increased risk of accidents, cirrhosis, hypertension, psychological illnesses, and congenital malformations. Moreover, alcohol consumption aggravates the risk of family problems as well as other social and employment issues such as alcohol addiction, accidents, criminal behavior, inadvertent injuries, violence, homicide and suicide, road traffic problems, etc. In particular, damages brought about by alcohol abuse rank the highest in the eastern European region, accounting for the increased rate of cardiovascular diseases and shortened life expectancy. In these societies, the total cost related to alcohol abuse is estimated to be 1-3 percent of the gross national product (WHO, 2001).

The Republic of Moldova has an agrarian economy, in which the cultivation of grapes and the production of wine accounts for a major portion of the country's income. Also, traditionally, large quantities of wine are consumed. According to estimates, the average annual per capita consumption of alcohol among the population age 15 and over exceeds 12 liters, which is higher than the average of countries of the European Union and approximately twice as high as the average in the Community of Independent States (CIS). Consequently, the death rate in the Republic of Moldova for alcohol-related diseases is about 222 per 100,000 persons, which is more than three times higher than countries of the European Union and approximately 40 percent higher than in the CIS countries (WHO, 2006).

In the 2005 MDHS, respondents were asked how many alcoholic beverages they had consumed during the previous month, on the days when they had consumed alcohol. A bottle or a mug of beer (330 ml), a glass of wine (50-200 ml), a glass of liqueur, and vodka or whiskey (50 ml) were considered standard beverages.

Results in Table 12.3.1 show that 59 percent of women consumed at least one alcoholic beverage per month prior to the interview. The consumption increases from 42 percent in the age group 15-19 to 62 percent in the age group 45-59. Women in urban areas consume alcohol more frequently than those in rural areas (62 and 57 percent, respectively). The highest consumption (64 percent) is in the South region of Chisinau. The level of alcohol consumption increases somewhat along with the level of education within the wealth quintile.