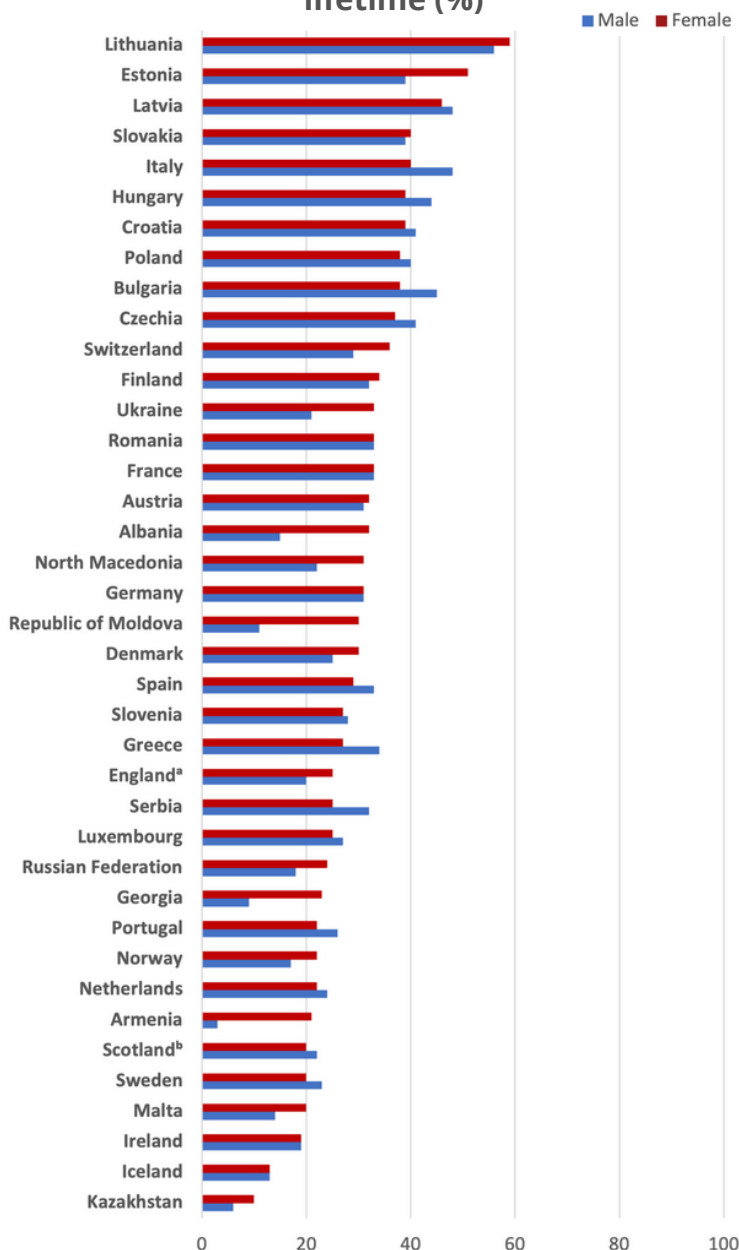


Tobacco use among adolescents in the WHO European Region is the second highest globally

8.9% (2.7 million) of children aged 13-15 smoke cigarettes in the WHO European Region

15-year-olds who have ever smoked in their lifetime (%)



Note: countries with no data: Andorra, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Monaco, Montenegro, San Marino, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan. Belgium (Flanders), Belgium (Wallonia), United Kingdom (Wales) not included.

^a United Kingdom (England).

^b United Kingdom (Scotland).

Source: Tobacco use. Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey, 2017/2018. <https://gateway.euro.who.int/en/datasets/hbsc/>

Tobacco use among adolescents

- The prevalence of lifetime and current smoking increased steeply with age in both genders
- There is an increasing uptake of novel tobacco products by adolescents in the Region

Why is it important?

- Three in four adolescents who smoke continue to do this daily in adulthood
- Adolescents progress faster to nicotine dependence than adults
- The adolescent brain is particularly sensitive to the effects of nicotine
- Smoking in adolescence can cause various health problems later in life

What needs to be done?

- Governments should consider banning or regulating novel tobacco and other nicotine-containing products.
- Governments should strengthen enforcement of tobacco control policies and protect them from the tobacco industry interference.
- PHC providers should counsel and encourage:
 - the adolescent to reflect on how to react to peer pressure
 - the parent or caregiver to talk about the use of tobacco in early adolescence

Scan the QR code for more information on what PHC providers can do!

