

## Tobacco use among women of reproductive age (15-49 years) in Pakistan: The Department of Health Sciences A secondary analysis of a Multiple Indicator Survey (MICS)





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## **Objectives:**

- 1. Prevalence estimates for all three types of tobacco use among women of reproductive age stratified by region.
- 2. Regression analysis to explore the effect of residence, education, socio-economic status and age on use of tobacco.
- 3. Regression analysis to compare **odds of low** birth weight in relation to tobacco use among women who have had a live birth in the past 2 years.

- Prevalence estimates significantly vary based on location and type of tobacco use (cigarette smoking, non-cigarette smoking and smokeless tobacco).
- Non-cigarette tobacco more prevalent in DG Khan division of Punjab while smokeless tobacco (ST) use more prevalent in Hyderabad division of Sindh.
- Inverse relationship of education and wealth index with tobacco use (all three forms).
- Despite the large survey data set, only 15% of the live births in past 2 years had recorded birthweights. Major challenge in estimating the association of tobacco use and low birth weight (LBW) is lack of data.

Odds of LBW in relation to cigarette smoking		
Observations	Odds ratios	95% CI
71	2.4	0.71 - 8.03
Constant	0.22	0.11 - 0.45
* p value less than 0.05		
Odds of LBW in relation to non-cigarette smoking		
Observations	Odds ratios	95% CI
70	1.88	0.62 - 5.65
Constant	0.29	0.11 - 0.71
* p value less than 0.05		
Odds of LBW in relation to ST use		
Observations	Odds intios	95% CI
156	0.22*	0.1 - 0.5
Constant	0.8	0.41 - 1.54
* p value less than 0.05		

Despite the large sample and the objective of the survey to collect maternal and child health data, only about 15% of the women who had a live birth in past two years had recorded birthweights. Hence, relatively few observations for the regression analysis. Hence one of the main challenges in estimating the association of LBW and tobacco use is lack of data.

## Data:

- The MICS data is collected by UNICEF on maternal and child health for two provinces of Pakistan; Punjab and Sindh (70% of Pakistan's population, 2017).
- Punjab (2017): **74011 women** (15656 women had one or more live births in past 2 years). Sindh (2014): 26647 women (6095 women had one or more live births in past 2 years).

## Results:

- Percentage of ever tobacco users, currently using tobacco ranges from 20%-95%.
- Odds of tobacco use is significantly lower for women with secondary and higher education.
- With each increase in wealth quintile, tobacco use decreases
- Women in rural areas are 39% less likely to use ST.



