

MAKE SMOKING HISTORY[®]

Statistics on Smoking

Smoking is a leading cause of preventable death and disease in Australia, contributing to more drug-related hospitalisations and deaths than alcohol and illicit drugs combined.¹ Tobacco use harms nearly every organ of the body,² being a known cause of cancer, cardiovascular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary and respiratory diseases, peripheral vascular disease and many other disabling and potentially fatal conditions. It is well established that exposure to second hand smoke also poses a serious risk to health. Second hand smoke is a cause of premature death and disease in children and non-smoking adults, with no amount of exposure being risk-free.³

Australia

- In 2010, 15.9% of people in Australia aged 18 and over were daily smokers.⁴
- Approximately 2.7 million adults aged 18 years and over still smoke daily,⁵ and each year more than 43,000 children start.⁶
- Tobacco kills approximately 15,000 Australians each year^{7,8} and is responsible for almost 90% of all drug-caused deaths.⁸
- Tobacco smoking was responsible for 7.8% of the burden of disease and injury in Australia in 2003 (9.6% of the total burden in males and 5.8% in females). Lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and ischaemic heart disease accounted for over three-quarters of this burden.⁷
- It is estimated that in 2004-05, around three quarters of a million (753,618) hospital bed-days were attributable to tobacco.⁸
- The total social costs of tobacco use in 2004-05 amounted to \$31.5 billion.⁸

Western Australia

- In 2010, 11.5% of Western Australians aged 16 and over smoked on a daily basis, with a further 3.3% indicating they were occasional smokers.⁹
- Smoking prevalence in Western Australia has continually declined since 1984 across males and females of all age groups.¹⁰
- In 2008, 4.8% of 12 to 17 year old school students were current smokers (4.6% of males and 5.1% of females).¹¹
- In Western Australia close to 270,000 people aged 16 and over still smoke daily or occasionally,¹² and each year approximately 8,000 school students in years 7 to 12 are current smokers (i.e. smoked in the last week).¹³
- In 2004/05, tobacco killed 1,256 Western Australians.¹⁴
- In 2004, tobacco was responsible for 10,734 hospitalisations,¹⁰ and in 2004/05, 67,370 hospital bed days and \$59.8 million in hospital costs.¹⁴
- The social costs of smoking in Western Australia were \$2.4 billion in 2004/05.¹⁴
- The Department of Health, Western Australia estimates that changes in smoking trends over the past ten years have saved 158 lives, prevented 3,870 hospitalisations for conditions caused by smoking and averted \$32.6 million in hospital costs.¹⁵

Useful and credible websites

Cancer Council Western Australia:

<http://www.cancerwa.asn.au/>

Contains links to various tobacco and health fact sheets, resources and campaign materials.

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Cancer Council Australia:

<http://www.cancer.org.au>

For a range of information and position statements on smoking.

Tobacco in Australia Online:

<http://tobaccoinaustralia.org.au>

A great one-stop resource that reviews key smoking and health issues in Australia.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

Australia's national agency for health and welfare statistics and information.

Quit Victoria:

<http://www.quit.org.au>

Contains a broad range of information on tobacco issues and statistics.

National Tobacco Control Campaign:

<http://www.quitnow.info.au>

For campaign materials and information on smoking and quitting.

OxyGen:

<http://www.oxygen.org.au>

Contains information about tobacco for young people.

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¹ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Australia's health 2008. Cat. no. AUS 99. Canberra: AIHW; 2008.

² US Department of Health and Human Services. The health consequences of smoking: a report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, Georgia: US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health; 2004.

³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The health consequences of involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke: a report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, Georgia: US Department of Health and Human Services, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Centre for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health; 2006.

⁴ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. 2010 National Drug Strategy Household Survey report. Canberra: AIHW Drug statistics series no. 25; 2011. AIHW Catalogue No.: PHE 145.

⁵ Estimate calculated using data from: 1) Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Estimated resident population, by age and sex - at 30 June 2010. Canberra: ABS; 2010. 2) Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. 2010 National Drug Strategy Household Survey report. Canberra: AIHW Drug statistics series no. 25; 2011. AIHW Catalogue No.: PHE 145.

⁶ White V, Scollo M. How many children take up smoking each year in Australia? ANZJPH. 2003;27(3):359-360.

⁷ Begg S, Vos T, Barker B, Stevenson C, Stanley L, Lopez AD. The burden of disease and injury in Australia 2003. AIHW cat. no. PHE 82. Canberra: AIHW; 2007.

⁸ Collins D, Lapsley H. The costs of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drug abuse to Australian society in 2004-05. Canberra: Department of Health and Ageing; 2008.

⁹ Davis P, Joyce S. Health and Wellbeing of Adults in Western Australia 2010, Overview and Trends. Perth: Department of Health, Western Australia; 2011.

¹⁰ Somerford P. Tobacco use and health. In: Cancer Council WA. The progress of tobacco control in Western Australia: achievements, challenges and hopes for the future. Perth: Cancer Council WA, 2008; p. 7-22.

¹¹ Coase P, Miller J. ASSAD smoking report 2005: a research report prepared for the Drug and Alcohol Office WA. Perth: TNS Social Research; 2007.

¹² Estimate calculated from data provided in: 1) Davis P, Joyce S. Health and Wellbeing of Adults in Western Australia 2010, Overview and Trends. Perth: Department of Health, Western Australia; 2011. 2) Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Estimated resident population, by age and sex - at 30 June 2010. Canberra: ABS; 2010.

¹³ Estimate calculated using data from: 1) Coase P, Miller J. ASSAD smoking report 2005: a research report prepared for the Drug and Alcohol Office WA. Perth: TNS Social Research; 2007. 2) Griffiths P, Kalic R, Gunnell A. Australian School Student Survey 2008: Western Australian tobacco results. Brief communication no. 1. Perth: Drug and Alcohol Office; 2009. 3) Department of Education. Full-time primary and secondary students by year level: government and non-government schools 1999 to 2008 [Internet]. 2010 [cited 2010 February 1]. Available from: <http://www.det.wa.edu.au/education/SchoolInfo/estat/Prevvyr/t216ds.html>.

¹⁴ Collins DJ, Lapsley HM. The social costs of smoking in Western Australia in 2004/05 and the social benefits of public policy measures to reduce smoking prevalence. Perth: Cancer Council WA; 2008.

¹⁵ Epidemiology Branch, Department of Health, Western Australia. Unpublished data; 2010.