

Fact Sheet

TOBACCO AND SMOKING

Queensland

- ✦ 16.7% of Queenslanders aged 14 years and over smoke daily (males 18.4% and females 15%).¹
- ✦ In 2006-07, there were 3,422 deaths in Queensland due to tobacco smoking. 67 % of these deaths occurred in males.²
- ✦ In 2006, almost one in five of all male deaths in Queensland and one in 10 female deaths were caused by smoking.²
- ✦ In 2006-2007, nearly half (46%) the smoking related deaths occurred in people aged less than 75 years, that is, they were premature deaths.
- ✦ Smoking was a leading contributor (8.1%) to the overall burden of disease in Queensland in 2003, contributing to 10% of the total burden for males and 5.9% for females.³
- ✦ Smoking resulted in an average 35,781 hospitalisations per year in Queensland in 2006/07 to 2007/08.²
- ✦ In 2004/05 tobacco was conservatively estimated to cost the Australian economy \$31.5 billion, representing more than half of all drug costs nationally. On a prorata basis, this amounts to 6.3 billion in Queensland.⁴
- ✦ Lung cancer is the most common cause of cancer related death in both men and women in Queensland, with 1034 men and 555 women dying from the disease in 2007.⁵
- ✦ In 2007, there were 1,901 lung cancers diagnosed among Queensland residents. Of the 1,901 diagnosed, 1216 were for males and 685 were for females.⁵
- ✦ Lung cancer death rates vary across population groups and are a major cause of cancer related health inequality in Queensland. Lung cancer death rates are about 65% higher in areas of socioeconomic disadvantage.²
- ✦ There are significant differences in lung cancer incidence by geographic region in Queensland for males but not for females. The lung cancer incidence rate was significantly lower than the Queensland average for males living on the Sunshine Coast (17%), Brisbane North (9%), Brisbane South (7%) and the Gold Coast (7%). The lung cancer incidence rate was significantly higher than the Queensland average for males living in the Northern/North West (9%), Fitzroy/Central West (10%), Logan-Beaudesert (10%) and Redcliffe/Caboolture (21%) areas.⁶

Australia

- ✦ 15.1% of Australians aged 14 years and over smoke daily (males 16.4% and females 13.9%). A further 1.5% smoke at last weekly (males 1.9% and females 1.2%).¹
- ✦ Smoking causes approximately 15,500 deaths in Australia each year.⁷
- ✦ Smoking is the risk factor that causes the greatest burden of disease in Australia.⁷
- ✦ Smoking is responsible for 9.6% of the total disease burden for men and 5.8% for women.⁷

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- ✦ The proportion of people aged 14 years or older smoking daily declined from 2007 to 2010, continuing a downward trend that began in 1995. Despite this decline, the number of smokers has remained stable between 2007 and 2010, at about 3.3million.¹
- ✦ Indigenous adults are more than twice as likely to smoke as non-indigenous adults.⁸
- ✦ A higher proportion of people living in remote areas reported daily or current smoking (28%) compared with those living in major cities (20%). This difference was particularly marked among males and females aged 25-44 years.⁹
- ✦ In Australia, smoking behaviour is inversely related to socioeconomic status, with disadvantaged groups being more likely to continue smoking.⁹
- ✦ Smoking accounts for 11.3% of all new cases of cancer and 20.9% of all cancer deaths.¹⁰

Percentage of cancer attributable to smoking:¹⁰

Cancer site	% attributable to smoking (males)	% attributable to smoking (females)
Lung	84	77
Larynx	73	66
Oral cancer	57	51
Oesophagus	54	46
Bladder	43	36
Vulva	-	40
Stomach	14	11
Pancreas	24	19
Anus	48	41
Kidney	28	21
Penis	30	-
Renal pelvis	55	48

Young smokers

- ✦ Among Australian teenagers aged 12-17 years, 3.8% of smoked tobacco and 2.5% smoked daily. 1.8% of males and 3.2% of females reported smoking daily.¹
- ✦ 13% of Australian teenagers aged 18-19 years smoked daily (13.2% of males and 12.8% of females).¹
- ✦ 32,000 Queensland school children (aged 12-17 years) reported smoking in the past week.¹¹
- ✦ The average age that people report taking up smoking is 15.6 years.²

More information

- ✦ Half of all long-term smokers will die prematurely from smoking related disease. Of those who die, half will die in middle age, losing 20-25 years of life expectancy.¹²
- ✦ Tobacco smoke contains more than 4000 chemicals,¹⁴ many of which are highly toxic and 69 of which are known to be carcinogenic. There is no safe level of smoking.¹⁴

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Queensland Tobacco Legislation¹⁵

From July 2006, the Queensland Government implemented new tobacco legislation. Current Queensland tobacco laws include:

- ✦ No smoking anywhere inside pubs, clubs, restaurants and workplaces (casino high roller rooms exempt).
- ✦ No smoking in commercial outdoor eating or drinking areas.
- ✦ No smoking in the following outdoor public places: patrolled beaches, within 10 metres of playground equipment, major sporting venues and while standing within four metres of non-residential building entrances.
- ✦ The sales of tobacco products prohibited to children under 18 years of age.
- ✦ Mandatory training of employees who sell tobacco.
- ✦ Mandatory no-smoking and quit smoking signs where tobacco products are sold.
- ✦ Restrictions on how tobacco products can be displayed at retail outlets.
- ✦ The banning of tobacco advertising or competitions.
- ✦ Tobacco vending machines to be located in bar or poker machine areas only.
- ✦ Ban on smoking in cars where children under the age of 16 years are present.
- ✦ A transfer of power to local government to regulate smoking at pedestrian malls and public transport waiting points such as bus stops, taxi ranks and ferry wharves.

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