

Health Fact Sheets

Smoking, 2014



Statistics
Canada

Statistique
Canada

Canada

How to obtain more information

For information about this product or the wide range of services and data available from Statistics Canada, visit our website, www.statcan.gc.ca.

You can also contact us by

email at STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca

telephone, from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the following numbers:

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| • Statistical Information Service | 1-800-263-1136 |
| • National telecommunications device for the hearing impaired | 1-800-363-7629 |
| • Fax line | 1-514-283-9350 |

Depository Services Program

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| • Inquiries line | 1-800-635-7943 |
| • Fax line | 1-800-565-7757 |

Standards of service to the public

Statistics Canada is committed to serving its clients in a prompt, reliable and courteous manner. To this end, Statistics Canada has developed standards of service that its employees observe. To obtain a copy of these service standards, please contact Statistics Canada toll-free at 1-800-263-1136. The service standards are also published on www.statcan.gc.ca under “Contact us” > “Standards of service to the public.”

Note of appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued co-operation and goodwill.

Standard table symbols

The following symbols are used in Statistics Canada publications:

- . not available for any reference period
- .. not available for a specific reference period
- ... not applicable
- 0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
- 0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
- ^P preliminary
- ^r revised
- X suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
- ^E use with caution
- F too unreliable to be published
- * significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada

© Minister of Industry, 2015

All rights reserved. Use of this publication is governed by the Statistics Canada [Open Licence Agreement](#).

An HTML version is also available.

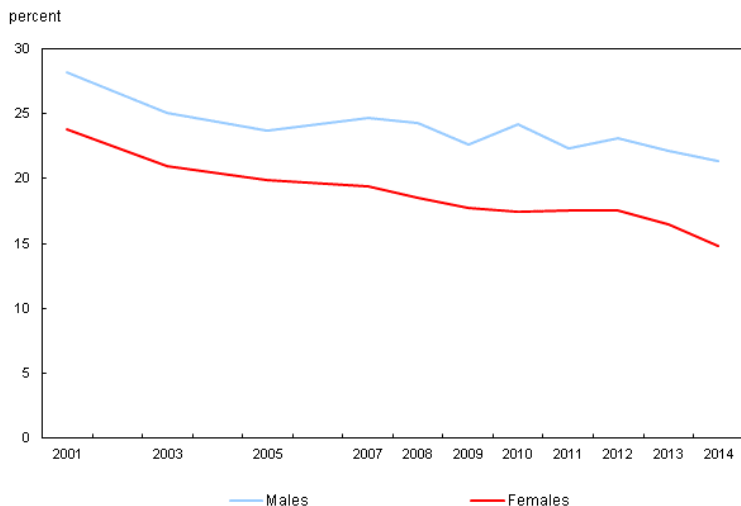
Cette publication est aussi disponible en français.

Smoking, 2014

Smoking is a risk factor for lung cancer, heart disease, stroke, chronic respiratory disease, and other conditions.¹ According to the World Health Organization, smoking is an important and preventable cause of death.²

In 2014, 18.1% of Canadians aged 12 and older, roughly 5.4 million people, smoked either daily or occasionally. This is a decrease from 2013 (19.3%) and is the lowest smoking rate reported since 2001. Among the sexes, 21.4% of males and 14.8% of females reported that they smoked daily or occasionally in 2014. For males this was a decrease from 2012 and for females it was a decrease from 2013. The rates of smoking have decreased significantly since 2001 when 28.2% of males and 23.8% of females smoked daily or occasionally (Chart 1).

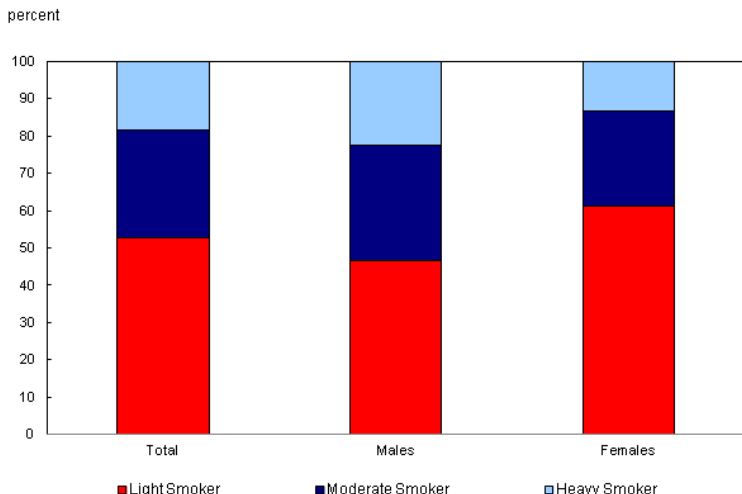
Chart 1
 Percentage who smoke daily or occasionally, by sex, household population aged 12 or older, Canada, 2001 to 2014



Source: Canadian Community Health Survey, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007 to 2014.

The majority of smokers, nearly 4.0 million, smoked cigarettes on a daily basis. Daily smokers can be classified as heavy, moderate or light smokers based on how many cigarettes they smoke per day³. Light smokers were the most common type of daily smoker (52.7%) followed by moderate (28.9%) and then heavy smokers (18.4%; Chart 2). In 2014, males were more likely to be heavy or moderate smokers than females, while females were more likely to be light smokers than males.

Chart 2
 Percentage of heavy, moderate and light smokers among daily smokers, by sex, household population aged 12 or older, Canada, 2014

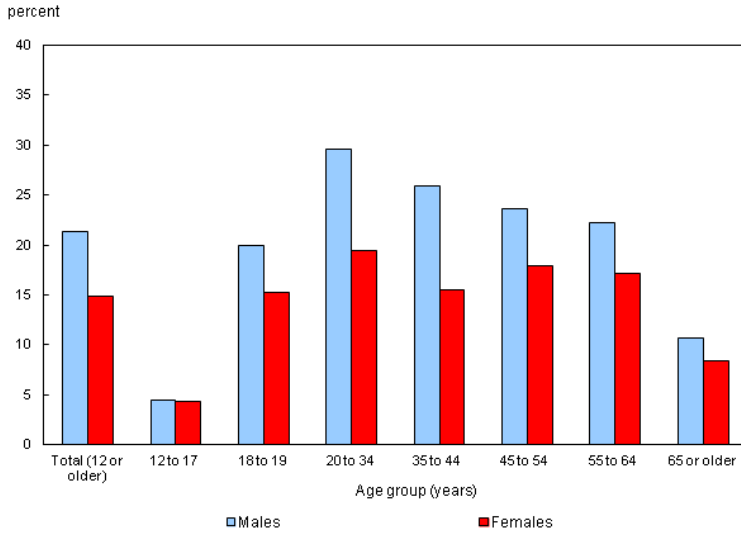


Source: Canadian Community Health Survey, 2014.

The percentage of daily or occasional smokers was the lowest for youths aged 12-17 (4.3%) and seniors aged 65 and older (9.4%). The proportion of males who were smokers was higher than females for all ages starting at age 20. Between 12 and 19, there was no difference between the sexes (Chart 3).

Although the lowest smoking rates were at both ends of the age spectrum (chart 3), the types of smokers were different. Seniors (aged 65 and over) were more likely to smoke daily (85.5%) compared to youth aged 12 to 17 (46.1%). Non-smokers in these age groups were different as well: 60.3% of senior non-smokers were actually former smokers, compared with 5.4% of non-smokers aged 12 to 17.

Chart 3
Percentage who smoke daily or occasionally, by age group and sex, household population aged 12 or older, Canada, 2014

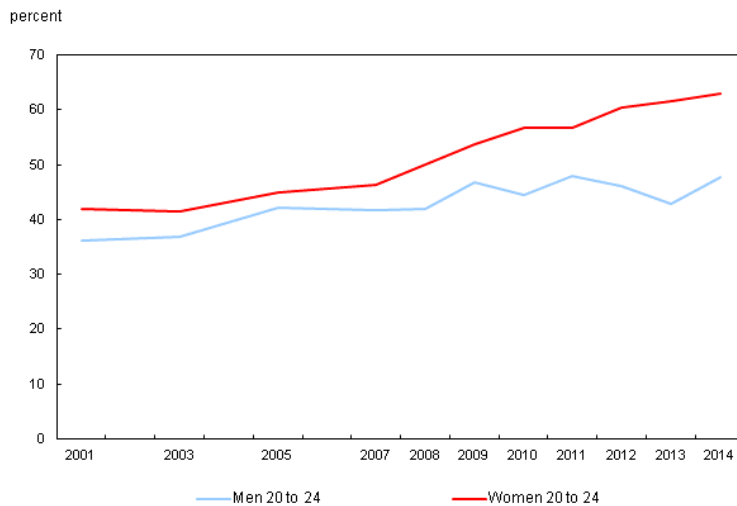


Source: Canadian Community Health Survey, 2014.

People typically begin smoking during their teenage years⁴, so the percentage of Canadians who have not started smoking by age 20 is an indicator of future smoking rates. In 2014, 55.0% of Canadians aged 20 to 24 had never smoked which is significantly higher than the 39.0% of 20 to 24 year olds who never smoked in 2001.

In the 20 to 24 age group, the rate for never smoking was higher for females (62.9%) than for males (47.7%) in 2014. The rate has been significantly higher for females most years since 2001, with the exception of 2005 and 2007 when the rates were about the same as for males. The rate for both sexes for those who have never smoked was a significant increase from 2001 when the rate was 41.9% for females and 36.2% for males (Chart 4).

Chart 4
Percentage who never smoked, by sex, household population aged 20 to 24, Canada, 2001 to 2014



Source: Canadian Community Health Survey, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007 to 2014.

The percentage of residents who smoked daily or occasionally was **lower** than the national average (18.1%) in:

- Ontario (17.4%)
- British Columbia (14.3%)

The percentage of residents who smoked daily or occasionally was **higher** than the national average in:

- Newfoundland and Labrador (21.7%)
- Nova Scotia (22.1%)
- New Brunswick (20.9%)
- Quebec (19.6%)
- Saskatchewan (20.5%)
- Yukon (26.2%)
- Northwest Territories (33.3%)
- Nunavut (62.0%)

Residents of the other provinces reported rates that were about the same as the national average.

Notes

-
- 1 Shields, Margot. 2005. “ The journey to quitting smoking.” *Health Reports*. Vol. (Volume) 16, no. (number) 3. May. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. (number) 82-003. p. (page(s)) 19. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/studies-etudes/82-003/archive/2005/7839-eng.pdf>.
 - 2 World Health Organization. 2008. WHO (World Health Organization) Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2008: The MPOWER Package. Geneva.
 - 3 Daily smokers are classified by how many cigarettes they reported smoking per day:

 - **Heavy:** 25 or more cigarettes per day,
 - **Moderate:** 15 to 24 cigarettes per day, and
 - **Light:** 14 or fewer cigarettes per day.
 - 4 Jiajian, Chen, Millar, Wayne J. 1998. “ Age of smoking initiation: Implications for quitting.” *Health Reports*. Vol. (Volume) 9, no. (number) 4. April. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. (number) 82-003. p. (page(s)) 39-46. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-003-x/1997004/article/3685-eng.pdf>.
-

References

- Shields, Margot. 2007. “ Smoking bans: Influence on smoking prevalence.” *Health Reports*. Vol. (Volume) 18, no. (number) 3. August. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. (number) 82-003. p. (page(s)) 9–24. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-003x/2006008/article/smoking-tabac/10306-eng.pdf>.
- Shields, Margot. 2005. “ The journey to quitting smoking.” *Health Reports*. Vol. (Volume) 16, no. (number) 3. May. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. (number) 82-003. p. (page(s)) 19–36. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/studies-etudes/82-003/archive/2005/7839-eng.pdf>.
- Shields, Margot. 2005. “ Youth smoking.” *Health Reports*. Vol. (Volume) 16, no. (number) 3. May. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. (number) 82-003. p. (page(s)) 53–57. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/studies-etudes/82-003/archive/2005/7840-eng.pdf>.
- World Health Organization. 2008. WHO (World Health Organization) Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2008: The MPOWER Package. Geneva.

Data

Additional data from the Canadian Community Health Survey are available from CANSIM table [105–0501](#).