

Health Fact Sheets

Smoking, 2015



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- . 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 ($p < 0.05$)

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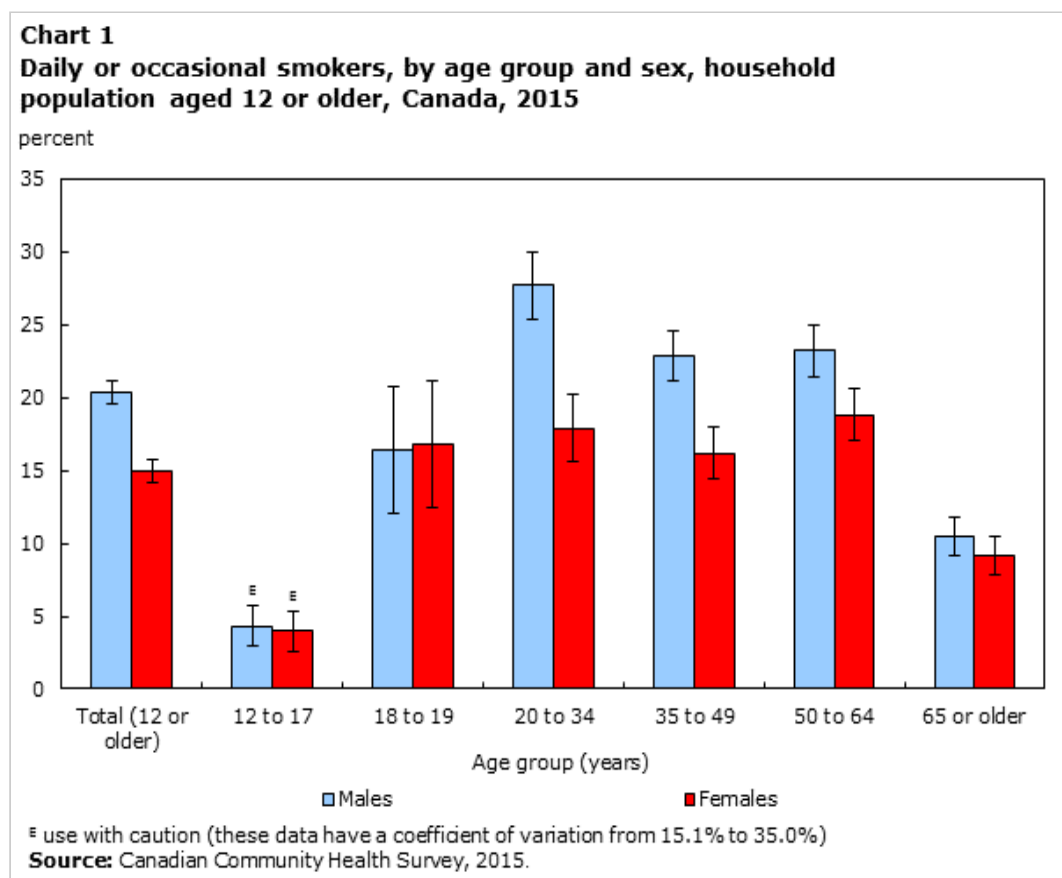
Health Fact Sheets Smoking, 2015



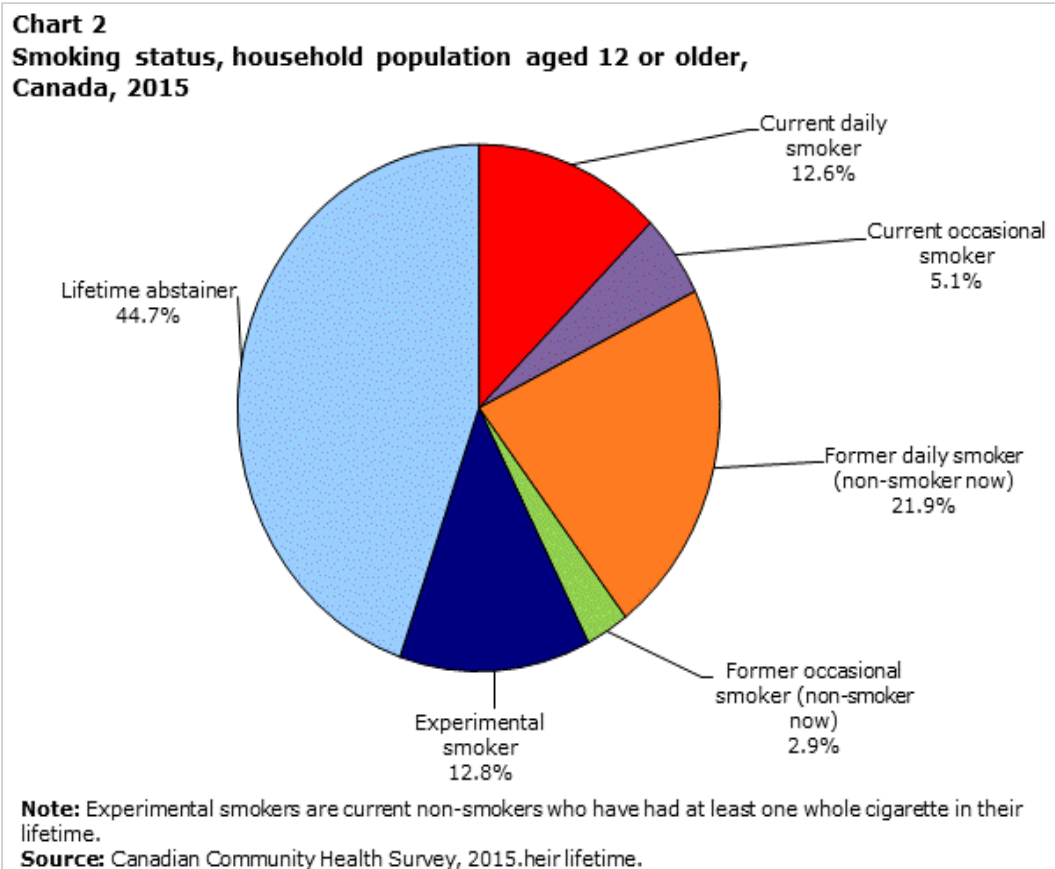
In 2015, 17.7% of Canadians aged 12 and older, roughly 5.3 million people, smoked either daily or occasionally.¹ Among the sexes, the proportion who smoked daily or occasionally was higher among males (20.4%) than females (15.0%).² (Chart 1)

Smoking is a risk factor for lung cancer, heart disease, stroke, chronic respiratory disease, and other conditions.³ According to the World Health Organization, smoking is an important and preventable cause of death.⁴

Across all age groups, smoking was least common among youth aged 12 to 17 (4.1%), followed by adults 65 or older (9.8%). The group with the largest proportion of smokers was males aged 20 to 34 – about one in four (27.7%) men in this age group were smokers (Chart 1).⁵



The majority of current smokers, roughly 3.8 million people, smoked cigarettes daily while the majority of non-smokers were lifetime abstainers (44.7%). Just over one in five Canadians (21.9%) were former daily smokers (Chart 2).



People typically begin smoking during their teenage years⁵, so the percentage who have not started smoking by age 20 is an indicator of future smoking rates. In 2015, 57.9% of Canadians aged 20 to 24 had never smoked. In the 20 to 24 age group, the proportion for never smoking was higher for females (64.9%) than for males (51.8%).⁵

The percentage of residents who smoked daily or occasionally was **lower** than the national average (17.7%) in:

- Prince Edward Island (14.9%)
- British Columbia (13.8%)

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

- Newfoundland and Labrador (24.4%)
- Quebec (18.6%)
- Saskatchewan (21.8%)

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

References

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Data

Additional data from the Canadian Community Health Survey are available from CANSIM 105-0508 (www.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a26?lang=fra&retrLang=eng&id=1050508).

Aussi disponible en français. (www.statcan.gc.ca/cgi-bin/change.cgi)

Notes

- 1 Estimates in this article referring to the national average or Canada rate exclude the territories. This is because the coverage of CCHS in 2015 does not represent the entire population of the territories. Only half of the communities in the territories were visited in 2015, and the other half in 2016 so analyses based on the territories is only available for two year cycles of the CCHS (e.g. 2015-2016).
- 2 In this article when two estimates are said to be different this indicates that the difference was statistically significant at a 95% confidence level (p-value less than 5%).
- 3 Shields, M. 2005. "The journey to quitting smoking (www.statcan.gc.ca/access_acces/alternative_alternatif.action?l=eng&loc=http://www.statcan.gc.ca/studies-etudes/82-003/archive/2005/7839-eng.pdf) ." *Health Reports*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 82-003. Vol. 16, no. 3. (Accessed January 17th, 2017).
- 4 World Health Organization. 2008. "*WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2008.*" *The MPOWER Package*. Geneva. (Accessed January 17th, 2017).
- 5 Jiajian, C., and W.J. Millar. 1998. "Age of smoking initiation: Implications for quitting. (www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-003-x/1997004/article/3685-eng.pdf) " *Health Reports*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 82-003. Vol. 9, no. 4. (Accessed January 11th, 2017).