

National Health Survey 2014/15

Tobacco use in Tasmania

The statistics on tobacco use presented here are derived from the 2014 National Health Survey (NHS), with comparisons to previous National Health Surveys, including an amalgamation of the 2011/12 National Health Survey and the 2011/12 National Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey. Each of these national surveys asked respondents about their use of tobacco. To maintain comparability with the results of previous NHS surveys, crude or non-age standardised rates have been used throughout this report.

General Population

In 2014/15, Tasmania and the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of *current smokers* of all jurisdictions, and statistically significantly higher than Australia as a whole.

Current smokers*, 18 years and over by jurisdiction, 2014/15

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| NSW | 15.9% |
| Vic | 15.5% |
| Qld | 16.9% |
| SA | 14.6% |
| WA | 16.5% |
| Tas | 18.9% |
| NT | 22.7% |
| ACT | 13.5% |
| Aus | 16.0% |

NHS 2014/15 First Results, March 2016; *Daily and occasional smokers combined

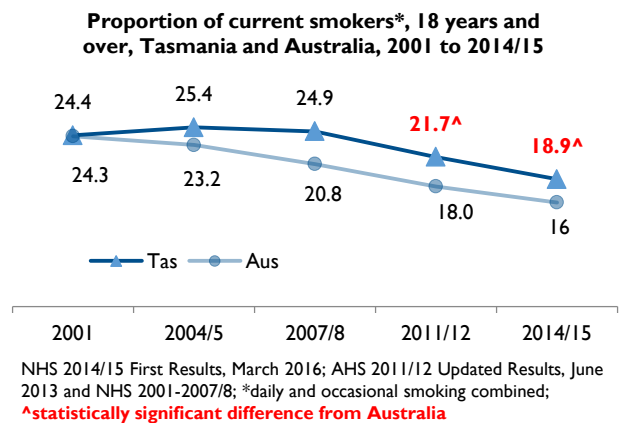
All jurisdictions experienced a decline in their *daily smoker* rates between 2011/12 and 2014/15. The Tasmanian decline was the fourth highest.

Daily smoker trends since 2007/8 by Jurisdiction

| | 2011/12 | 2014/15 | % change |
|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| NSW | 14.3% | 14.2% | -0.1% |
| Vic | 16.3% | 13.7% | -2.6% |
| Qld | 17.8% | 16.1% | -1.7% |
| SA | 16.1% | 13.1% | -3.0% |
| WA | 17.7% | 14.3% | -3.4% |
| Tas | 20.6% | 17.9% | -2.7% |
| NT | 23.7% | 20.9% | -2.8% |
| ACT | 12.6% | 12.4% | -0.2% |
| Aus | 16.1% | 14.5% | -1.6% |

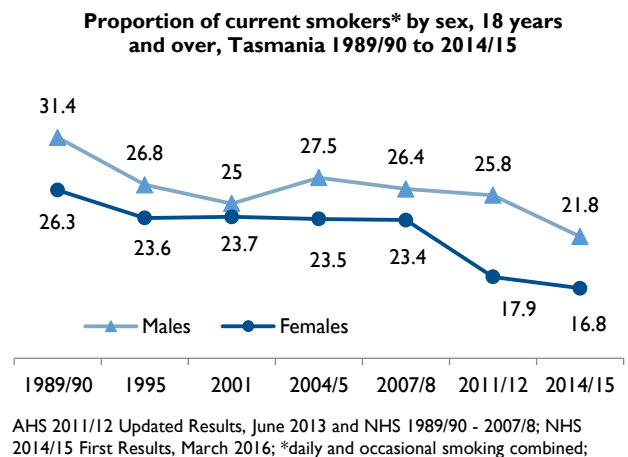
AHS 2011/12 Updated Results, June 2013; NHS 2014/15 First Results, March 2016

The graph below shows that although Tasmania's current smoking rate of 18.9% for 2014/15 is lower than for 2011/12, it is statistically significantly higher than the Australian rate of 16%.



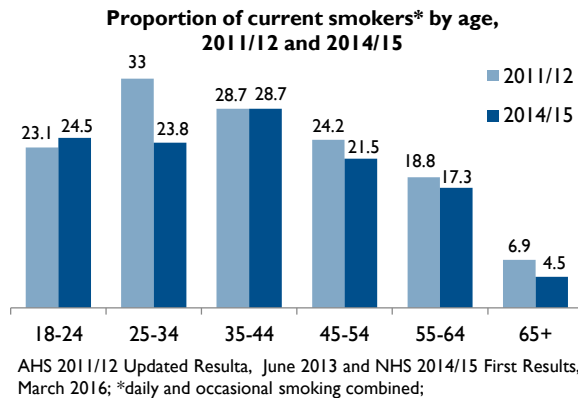
Gender

Trend data below show a gradual decline in smoking rates for both males and females since 1989/90. In 2014/15 the *current smoker* rate for males saw a fall from 25.8% in 2011/12 to 21.8%, whilst the fall for females was much lower, from 17.9% in 2011/12 to 16.8%. National current smoker rates for 2014/15 were lower, with 18.9% and 13.3% for males and females respectively.



Age Groups

The graph below shows that the age distribution of *current smokers* in Tasmania has remained relatively stable. There was a decrease of almost ten percentage points in the proportion of smokers aged 25-34 years from 33% to 23.8%, but this was not statistically significant. Nationally, the 2011/12 current smoker rate for the 25-34 year age group was 20.1%.



Marked differences in *current smoker* rates are evident for males and females in all age groups, except 55-64 years and 65 years and over.

Nationally, the gender-age trends are generally similar to Tasmania, but with mostly smaller proportions of smokers within each group. This is particularly so for the 25-34 year age group, where 25.5% of males and 14.2% of females nationwide were smokers, compared with 35.7% and 22.5%, respectively, for Tasmania.

Proportion of current smokers* by age and sex, Tasmania 2014/15

| | Males % | Females % |
|--------------|---------|-----------|
| 18-24 | 19.9 | 23.7 |
| 25-34 | 30.1 | 18.3 |
| 35-44 | 35.7 | 22.5 |
| 45-54 | 27.9 | 17.7 |
| 55-64 | 17.0 | 18.1 |
| 65+ | 5.3 | 5.0 |

NHS 2014/15 First Results, March 2016; *daily and occasional smokers combined

Ex-Smokers and Never Smoked

Between the age of 25 and 44 years, more females than males quit smoking in Tasmania, possibly as an outcome of pregnancy and child rearing. Nationally, for each age group, more males than females quit smoking.

With older age, ex-smoking males outnumber females, particularly at the age of 55 years and over. This trend is also reflected at the national level.

Proportion of ex-smokers by age & sex, Tasmania 2014/15

| | Males | Females |
|-------|-------|---------|
| 18-24 | 17.4 | 4.6 |
| 25-34 | 16.6 | 24.4 |
| 35-44 | 24.1 | 28.5 |
| 45-54 | 36.7 | 36.0 |
| 55-64 | 49.5 | 29.4 |
| 65+ | 62.4 | 40.7 |

NHS 2014/15 First Results, March 2016

Of those Tasmanians who had never smoked, females outnumbered males in all age groups. Nationally, the proportion of females who had never smoked were noticeably higher than Tasmania's in the 35-44 years and the 45-54 age groups with 55.6% and 53.6% respectively.

Proportion of never smoked by age and sex, Tasmania 2014/15

| | Males % | Females % |
|--------------|---------|-----------|
| 18-24 | 58.6 | 70.0 |
| 25-34 | 48.1 | 62.5 |
| 35-44 | 40.2 | 48.3 |
| 45-54 | 38.7 | 44.7 |
| 55-64 | 31.5 | 53.9 |
| 65+ | 30.4 | 55.6 |

NHS 2014/15 First Results, March 2016

The proportion of Tasmanians aged 18 years and over who never smoked has remained relatively stable since 1989/90. The proportion of ex-smokers has shows a clear upward trend, with a statistically significant increase since 1989/90.

Trends in quitting and never smoked, 18 years and over, Tasmania 1989/90 to 2014/15

| | ex-smoker % | never smoked % |
|---------|-------------|----------------|
| 1989/90 | 23.3 | 47.9 |
| 1995 | 31.8 | 42.7 |
| 2001 | 26.5 | 49.1 |
| 2004/5 | 32.3 | 42.2 |
| 2007/8 | 30.1 | 45 |
| 2011/12 | 33.4 | 44.9 |
| 2014/15 | 33.8 | 46.8 |

NHS 1989-2007/8; AHS 2011/12 Updated Results, June 2013; NHS 2014/15 First Results, March 2016

Socio-Economic Status

Socio-economics play an important role in smoking, with smoking being over one and a half times as common among unemployed compared to employed Tasmanians.

Of all Tasmanians aged 18 years and over who were employed in 2014/15, 19.5% were *daily smokers*, compared to 31.5% of all Tasmanians who reported to be unemployed. Whilst the latter is over sixteen percentage points lower than in 2011/12 (47.8%), the difference is not statistically significant.

Proportion of *daily smokers* by workforce status, 18 years and over, Tasmania 2014/15

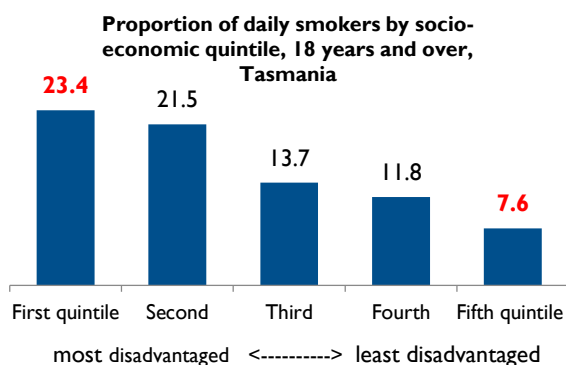
| | |
|------------------|------|
| Employed | 19.5 |
| Unemployed | 31.5 |
| Not in workforce | 13.8 |

NHS 2014/15 First Results, March 2016, Table 6.3

Smoking continues to be much more prevalent among Tasmanians residing in areas experiencing the greatest socio-economic disadvantage.

Of all Tasmanians aged 18 years and over who live in the most disadvantaged geographic areas (quintile 1) almost one in four (23.4%) are *daily smokers*. Of those who reside in the least disadvantaged area (quintile 5) about one in thirteen (7.6%) are daily smokers. The difference between the proportions of smokers in the these two quintiles is statistically significant.

This distribution is similar at the national level, with 21.4% of Australians who live in the most disadvantaged first quintile being daily smokers compared to 8.0% in the least disadvantaged fifth quintile.



NHS 2014/15 First Results, March 2016, Table 6.3. **the difference between the 1st and 5th quintiles is statistically significant**