

Health Fact Sheet

Smoking, 2017

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Health Fact Sheets

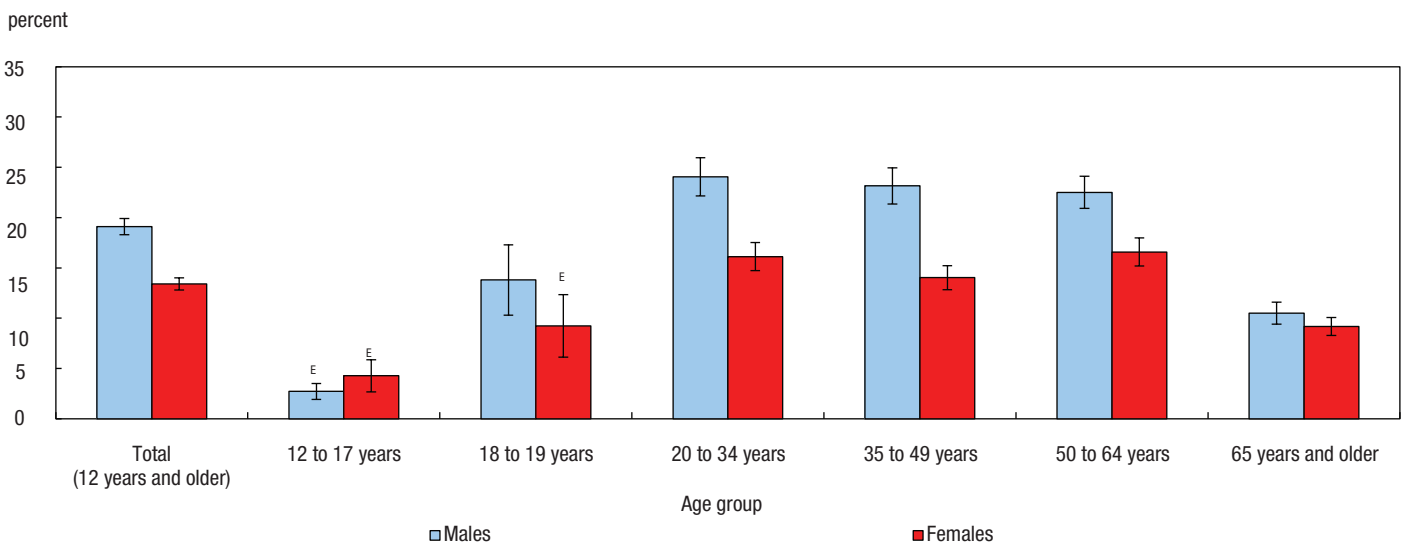
Statistics Canada, Catalogue no.82-625-X

Smoking, 2017

In 2017, 16.2% of Canadians aged 12 and older (roughly 5 million people) smoked either daily or occasionally.¹ The proportion of Canadians aged 12 and older who smoked either daily or occasionally declined between 2015 and 2017 (17.7%, 16.2%).²

Among the sexes, the proportion who smoked daily or occasionally was higher among males (19.1%) than females (13.4%). Across all age groups, smoking was least common among youth aged 12 to 17 (3.5%, Chart 1).³

Chart 1 Daily or occasional smokers, by age group and sex, population aged 12 and older, Canada, 2017

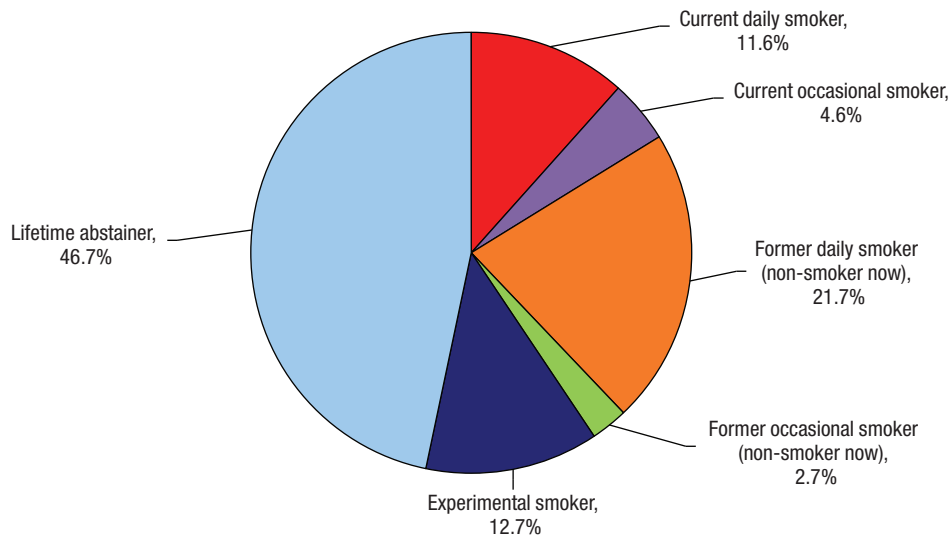


^E use with caution (these data have a coefficient of variation between 15.1% and 35.0%)

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey, 2017.

Of the 5 million current smokers, the majority (3.6 million) smoked cigarettes daily. The majority of non-smokers were lifetime abstainers. Just over one in five Canadians (21.7%) were non-smokers who used to be daily smokers (Chart 2).

Chart 2 Smoking status, population aged 12 and older, Canada, 2017



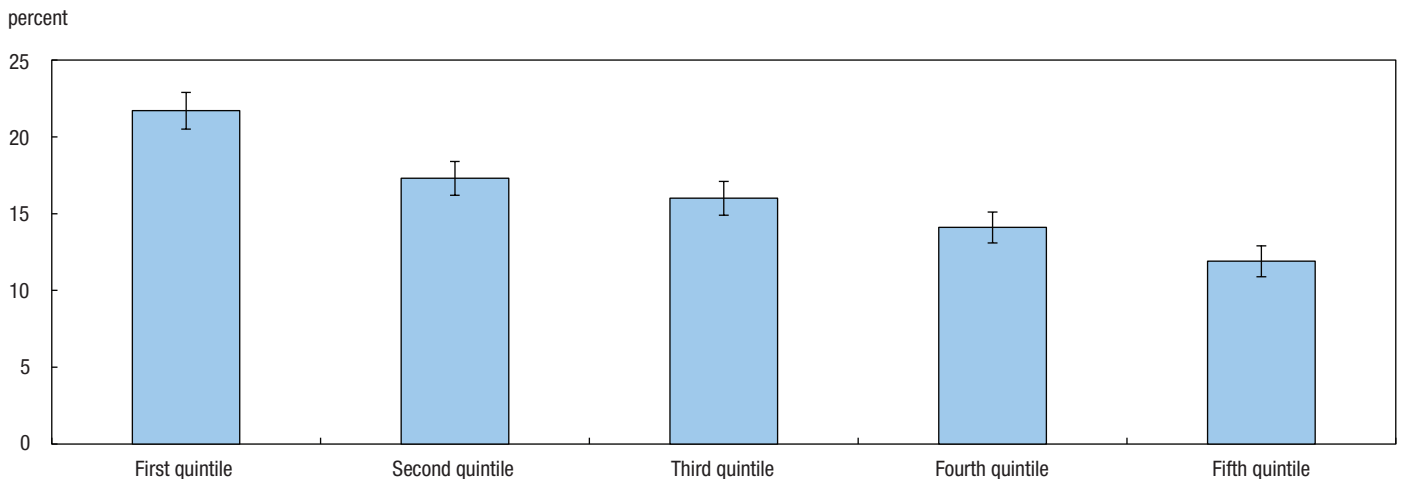
Note: Experimental smokers are current non-smokers who have had at least one whole cigarette in their lifetime.

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey, 2017.

People typically begin smoking during their teenage years⁴, so the percentage who have not started smoking by age 20 is an indicator of future smoking rates. In 2017, 60.7% of those aged 20 to 24 had never smoked. Among this age group, the proportion for never smoking was higher for females than for males.

The proportion of smokers in Canada varied by household income. Among households within the lowest income quintile⁵, over 1 in 5 Canadians were smokers (21.7%). In households in the highest income quintile, just over 1 in 10 were smokers (11.9%, Chart 3).

Chart 3 Daily or occasional smokers, by household income quintile, population aged 12 and older, Canada, 2017



Source: Canadian Community Health Survey, 2017.

For analysis of smoking with other healthy behaviours see the 'Healthy Behaviours' Fact Sheet (<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/82-625-x/2018001/article/54975-eng.htm>).

About Smoking

Smoking is a risk factor for lung cancer, heart disease, stroke, chronic respiratory disease, and other conditions.⁶ According to the World Health Organization, smoking is an important and preventable cause of death.⁷

The Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) categorizes respondents by smoking status based on their self-reported smoking habits:

- **Lifetime abstainer** - Has never smoked a whole cigarette
- **Experimental smoker** - Has smoked at least 1 whole cigarette, but less than 100 in their lifetime
- **Former occasional smoker (non-smoker now)** - Currently doesn't smoke, but has smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime. These respondents have never smoked daily
- **Former daily smoker (non-smoker now)** - Currently doesn't smoke, but has smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime. These respondents have previously smoked daily
- **Current occasional smoker** - Smokes cigarettes occasionally
- **Current daily smoker** - Smokes cigarettes every day

The CCHS smoking rate covers cigarettes that are bought ready-made as well as cigarettes that are self-made, but does not include electronic cigarettes.

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 2017 does not represent the entire population of the territories. Only half of the communities in the territories were visited in 2017, and the other half in 2018 so analyses based on the territories is only available for two year cycles of the CCHS (e.g. 2017-2018).
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. Note that the proportion of women aged 12 to 17 and 18 to 34, and men aged 12 to 17 who smoked either daily or occasionally had a coefficient of variation between 15.1% and 35.0%; interpret with caution.
4. Jiajian, C., and W.J. Millar. 1998. *Age of smoking initiation: Implications for quitting* (<http://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 17, 2017)
5. Based on household income, adjusted by the before-tax low income cut-off (LICO) for the household and community size. The LICO is the threshold at which a family would typically spend a larger portion of its income than the average family on the necessities of food, shelter, and clothing. This accounts for spending power based on the family and community size.
6. Shields, M. 2005. *The journey to quitting smoking* (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/cgi-bin/af-fdr.cgi?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 17, 2017)
7. World Health Organization. 2008. *WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2008* (<http://www.who.int/tobacco/mpower/2008/en/>). The MPOWER Package. Geneva. (accessed January 17, 2017)

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Data

Additional data from the Canadian Community Health Survey are available from table 13-10-0096-01 (https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1310009601&request_locale=en).

For more information on the Canadian Community Health Survey, please contact Statistics Canada's Statistical Information Service (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca).