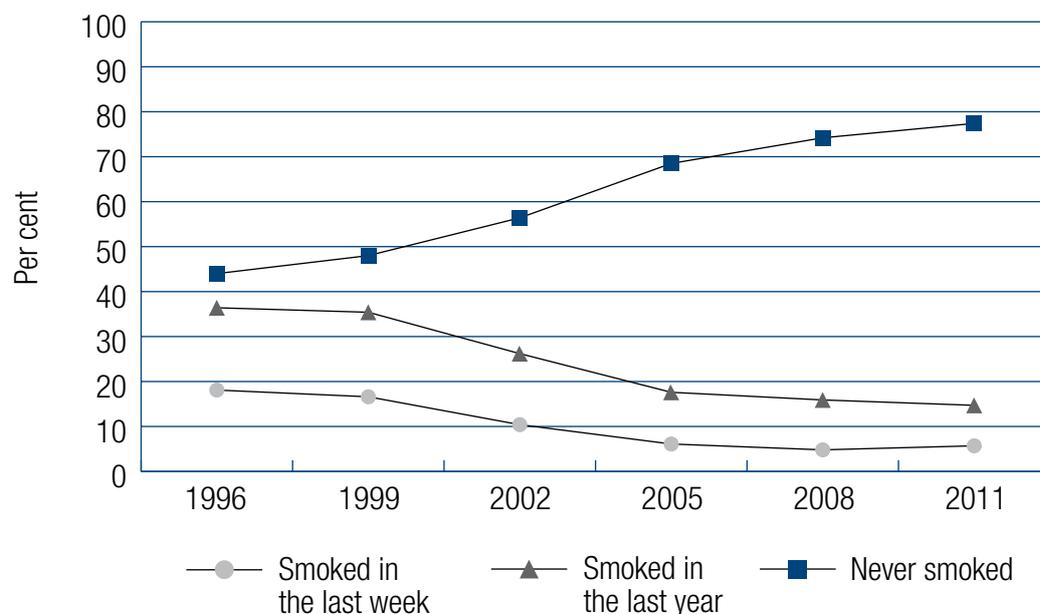


9.1 Smoking

Why this measure is included

Smoking greatly increases the risk of many cancers, cardiovascular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and other respiratory diseases, peripheral vascular disease and many other serious medical conditions.⁴⁶² Research has shown that the younger an individual starts smoking, the less likely they are to stop.⁴⁶³

Figure 9.1: Prevalence of smoking of 12 to 17 year-old school students: in per cent, by recency of use, Western Australia, 1996 to 2011

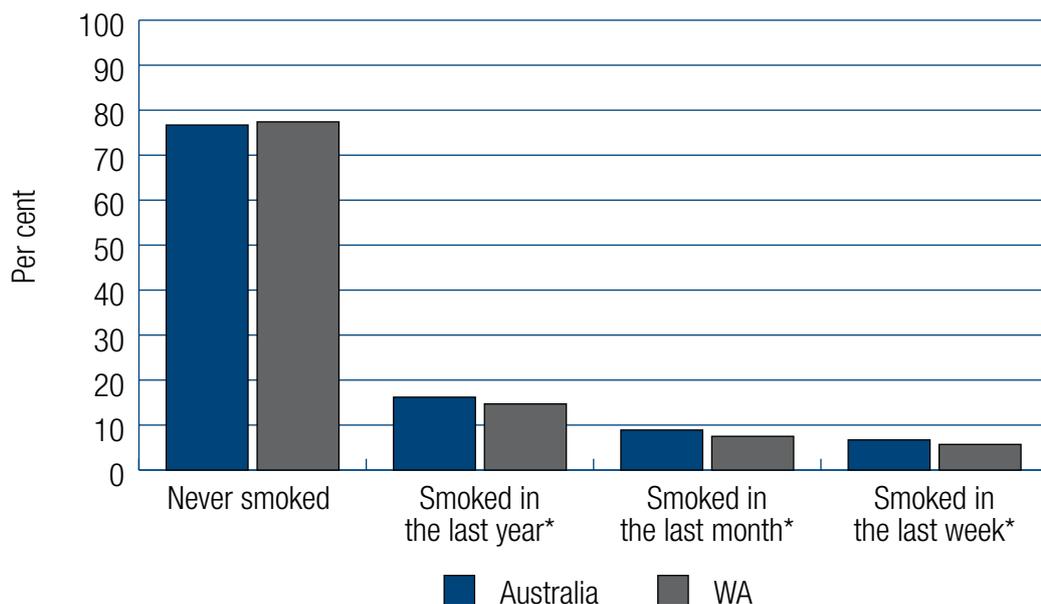


Source: Hood R et al, *Australian School Student Alcohol and Drug Survey: Tobacco Report – Western Australian results, 1996–2011* [series]

* 'Smoked in the last year' includes those who smoked in the last month (not shown) and the last week.



Figure 9.2: Prevalence of smoking of 12 to 17 year-old school students: in per cent, by recency of use, Western Australia and Australia, 2011



Source: Hood R et al 2012, *Australian School Student Alcohol and Drug Survey: Tobacco Report 2011 – Western Australian results*

* 'Smoked in the last year' includes those who smoked in the last month and the last week and 'smoked in the last month' includes those who smoked in the last week.

Table 9.1: Prevalence of smoking of 12 to 17 year-old school students: in per cent, by age and gender, Western Australia, 2011

	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	16 years	17 years	12 to 17 years
Never smoked							
Male	87.9	84.5	76.7	75.7	67.8	52.4	76.7
Female	92.5	81.5	81.2	73.7	67.2	64.8	78.3
All	90.1	83.1	78.8	74.8	67.5	58.6	77.4
Smoked in the last year*							
Male	0.2	10.3	15.6	14.3	21.5	38.1	14.3
Female	1.4	13.0	13.3	19.7	25.7	23.4	15.2
All	0.8	11.6	14.4	16.9	23.6	30.8	14.7
Smoked in the last week							
Male	0.0	3.0	6.2	6.3	9.4	17.4	5.9
Female	0.0	4.4	4.7	8.6	8.6	10.1	5.6
All	0.0	3.7	5.5	7.4	9.0	13.8	5.7

Source: Hood R et al 2012, *Australian School Student Alcohol and Drug Survey: Tobacco Report 2011 – Western Australian results*

* 'Smoked in the last year' includes those who smoked in the last month (not shown) and the last week.

Table 9.2: Prevalence of smoking of 12 to 17 year-old school students: in per cent, by region, Western Australia, 2011

	Perth metropolitan area	Regional WA	WA
Never smoked	78.6	69.3	77.4
Smoked in the last year*	14.2	18.8	14.7
Smoked in the last week	5.5	7.3	5.7

Source: Hood R et al 2012, *Australian School Student Alcohol and Drug Survey: Tobacco Report 2011 – Western Australian results*

* ‘Smoked in the last year’ includes those who smoked in the last month (not shown) and the last week.

What is this measure?

This measure considers the level of smoking among 12 to 17 year-olds in Western Australia (WA) and Australia.

This information is derived from the Australian Secondary Students’ Alcohol and Drug (ASSAD) survey which has been conducted every three years since 1984. The latest survey was conducted during the academic school year of 2011. The national report presents estimates of the prevalence of use of different substances in 2011 by males and females at each age between 12 and 17 years.⁴⁶⁴ WA-specific data is prepared and published by the WA Drug and Alcohol Office.⁴⁶⁵

This measure presents data from both the ASSAD 2011 national report as well as WA-specific data for the years 1996 to 2011 provided by the Drug and Alcohol Office.

Commentary

In 2011, 77.4 per cent of all 12 to 17 year-old secondary students in Western Australia had no experience with smoking. This is significantly higher than the proportion recorded in 2008 (74.2%) and 2005 (68.5%). The trend data in Figure 9.1 shows that the prevalence of smoking among secondary students in WA has declined strongly over the last two decades since 1996.

Compared nationally, the 2012 proportion of WA secondary students who reported that they had never tried smoking was marginally greater than the proportion recorded nationally (77.4% compared to 76.7%) (Figure 9.2).

In terms of students who had tried smoking, around 15 per cent of secondary students in WA had smoked in the last year while 7.5 per cent had smoked in the last month. Both these rates are lower than the comparative national rates of around 16 and nine per cent respectively (Figure 9.2).

Students who smoked in the seven days preceding the survey were termed current smokers. The proportion of 12 to 17 year-old students who were current smokers increased from 4.8 per cent in 2008 to 5.7 per cent in 2011.

There was some difference in the prevalence of smoking among male and female students in WA in 2011. The increase in the proportion of students who had never smoked was greater among females (74.3% to 78.3%) compared to males (74.2% to 76.7%). Consequently, female students were more likely than male students to never have smoked a cigarette (78.3% compared to 76.7%). Males were also more likely than females to have smoked in the last month (7.7% and 7.3% respectively) and the last week (5.9% and 5.6% respectively). Female students on the other hand were more likely to have smoked in the last year (15.2% and 14.3% respectively)⁴⁶⁶ (Table 9.1).

The prevalence of smoking increased with age. At the age of 12 years, less than one per cent of secondary students in WA had smoked in the last year and none had smoked in the last month or week. By the age of 17 years, almost one-third had smoked in the last year (30.8%) and 13.8 per cent had smoked in the last week⁴⁶⁷ (Table 9.1).

School students in regional WA are more likely to have tried smoking than their peers in the metropolitan area (30.7% and 21.4% respectively). The greater prevalence of smoking among students in regional areas in 2011 was evident for each frequency of smoking⁴⁶⁸ (Table 9.2).

Due to the small sample size data that measures the incidence of smoking specifically among Aboriginal students is not available.

The ASSAD survey also includes questions about awareness of the health effects of smoking and about how the respondent feels about smoking. In 2011, more students agreed that smoking harms health and is unattractive.⁴⁶⁹ In addition, fewer students agreed that it is okay if their friends smoke (17.1% in 2011 compared to 20.7% in 2008). Interestingly, almost two-fifths (38.7%) of students aged 12 to 17 years thought their peers smoked last week, but only 5.7 per cent actually did.⁴⁷⁰

International comparison shows that WA has a low rate of smoking among children and young people. The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth's (ARACY) 2013 *Report Card* found that "Australia leads the world in areas such as low youth smoking rates."⁴⁷¹ The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) measures tobacco use by 15 year-olds. This was most recently collected in 2009–10 and showed that, in the OECD countries, on average 17 per cent of boys and 16 per cent of girls smoked at least once a week.⁴⁷² In comparison, in WA in 2011, 6.3 per cent of boys and 8.6 per cent of girls reported smoking in the last week⁴⁷³ (Table 9.1).

Strategies

Western Australian Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2012–2016, Government of Western Australia

The framework sets out WA Health's strategic directions and priorities for the prevention of chronic disease and injury over the next five years. The goal of the framework is to lower the incidence of avoidable chronic disease and injury by improving healthy behaviours and environments.

The framework focuses on the main lifestyle risk factors including:

- overweight and obesity
- nutrition
- physical activity
- tobacco use
- harmful levels of drinking.

There is also a section on injury prevention. Further information is available at: www.public.health.wa.gov.au/cproot/4462/2/wa_health_promotion_strategic_framework.pdf



Tobacco Products Control Act 2006 (WA)

The *Tobacco Products Control Act 2006* and associated regulations form the legislative component of WA's comprehensive tobacco control strategy. The Act includes:

- a prohibition on the sale and supply of tobacco products to children
- a ban on the display of tobacco products and smoking implements in most retail outlets
- a ban on smoking in outdoor eating areas, in cars where children under 17 years are present, within 10 metres of playground equipment and between the flags of patrolled beaches.

The legislation is available at www.slp.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/main_mrtitle_983_homepage.html

National Drug Strategy 2010–2015: A framework for action on alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, Commonwealth Government

The National Drug Strategy provides a national framework for action to minimise the harms to individuals, families and communities from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Further information is available at www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au/internet/drugstrategy/publishing.nsf/Content/nds2015

National Tobacco Strategy 2012–2018, Commonwealth Government

The National Tobacco Strategy, developed by the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs Standing Committee on Tobacco, is a sub-strategy under the National Drug Strategy 2010–2015. The goal of the strategy is to improve the health of all Australians by reducing the prevalence of smoking and its associated health, social and economic costs and the inequalities it causes. Further information is available at [www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au/internet/drugstrategy/publishing.nsf/Content/D4E3727950BDBAE4CA257AE70003730C/\\$File/National%20Tobacco%20Strategy%202012-2018.pdf](http://www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au/internet/drugstrategy/publishing.nsf/Content/D4E3727950BDBAE4CA257AE70003730C/$File/National%20Tobacco%20Strategy%202012-2018.pdf)

Want to know more?

Data on smoking

Data in the WA report on the ASSAD survey series is available on the Drug and Alcohol Office website www.dao.health.wa.gov.au/Informationandresources/Publicationsandresources/Researchandstatistics/Statistics/AustralianSchoolStudentsAlcoholandDrugsurvey.aspx

Australian data in the national report on the 2011 ASSAD is available from the National Drug Strategy website at www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au/internet/drugstrategy/Publishing.nsf/content/school11

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2011, *Drugs in Australia 2010: tobacco, alcohol and other drugs*. Drug statistics series no. 27. Cat. no. PHE 154. Canberra: AIHW. www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737420497

Research, reports and articles

Australia: the healthiest country by 2020. Technical Report No 2 Tobacco control in Australia: making smoking history, Commonwealth Government www.health.gov.au/internet/yourhealth/publishing.nsf/Content/nphs-report-roadmap

The Smarter than Smoking Project is a comprehensive and innovative youth smoking prevention project that aims to prevent the uptake of smoking among 10 to 15 year-olds in WA. In March 2012, the Smarter than Smoking Project launched 'Future in Your Hands', a new campaign urging teenagers to make a positive choice not to smoke. Further information is available on the Cancer Council Western Australia website at www.cancerwa.asn.au/prevention/tobacco/quitsmoking/youthsmoking/



Other information

Healthway, Government of Western Australia

Healthway was established in 1991 as an independent statutory body. The key priorities for Healthway are reducing harm from tobacco, reducing harm from alcohol, reducing obesity and promoting good mental health.

Healthway provides sponsorship to sports, arts, and racing organisations to promote healthy messages, facilitate healthy environments and increase participation in healthy activities. Healthway also provides grants to a diverse array of organisations to encourage healthy lifestyles and advance health promotion programs. Further information about Healthway is available from their website www.healthway.wa.gov.au/

School Drug Education and Road Aware, Government of Western Australia

School Drug Education and Road Aware (SDERA) is the State government's primary drug (including tobacco and alcohol) and road safety education strategy and provides best practice road safety, resilience and drug education. SDERA provides school-based staff, parents and community agencies with professional learning services and support resources to develop effective drug and road safety education programs within their schools and communities. Further information is available at www.det.wa.edu.au/sdera/detcms/portal/

