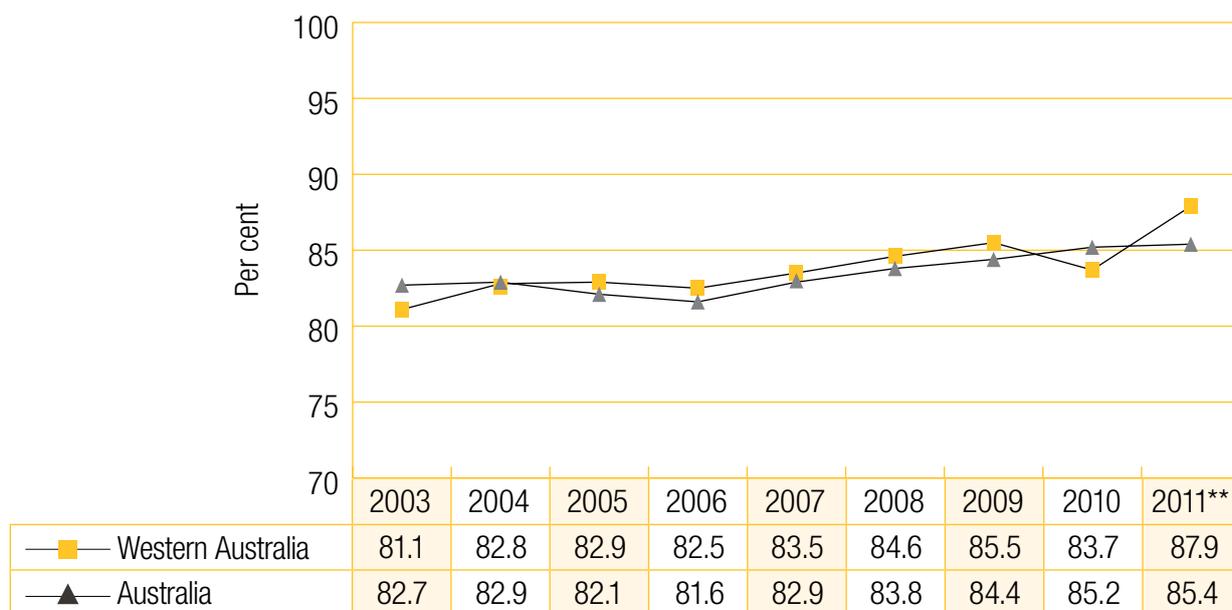


3.1 Smoke-free pregnancy

Why this measure is included

The effects of maternal smoking can persist throughout a child's life. There is strong evidence that smoking in pregnancy is associated with low birth weight, growth retardation in the fetus and increased risks of prematurity. There is also evidence of association with sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).^{53 54}

Figure 3.1: Women who did not smoke in pregnancy: in per cent, Western Australia and Australia, 2003 to 2011



Source: AIHW, *Australia's mothers and babies*, 2003–2011 [series]

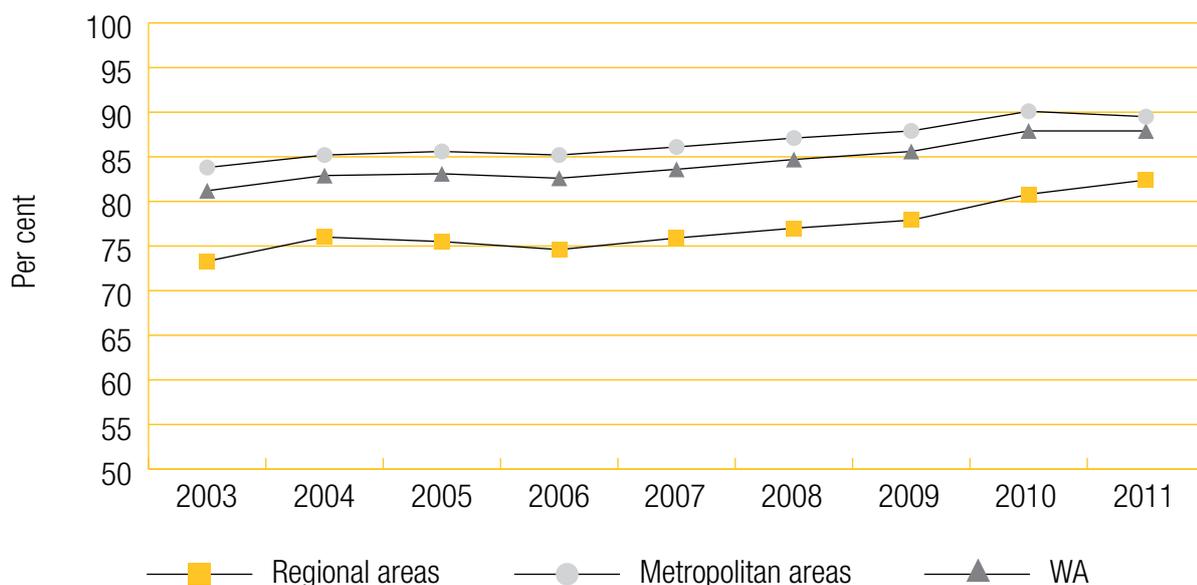
* For WA 2010 and 2011, 'Did not smoke' includes 'Not determined' average number of tobacco cigarettes smoked per day in first 20 weeks of pregnancy and after 20 weeks of pregnancy.

** The percentage for Australia for 2011 differs from the percentage published in *Australia's mothers and babies 2011*. The published 2011 data for Australia is not comparable with previous year data. In 2011, the percentage was calculated after excluding records with missing values (women with unknown smoking status). In order to allow for comparison over time, AIHW have provided the 2011 data shown in this figure as part of a custom report.

Note: Mother's tobacco smoking status during pregnancy is self-reported.



Figure 3.2: Women who did not smoke in pregnancy: in per cent, by metropolitan and regional, Western Australia, 2003 to 2011



Source: Data supplied by WA Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Unit 2014, custom report (unpublished)

Table 3.1: Women who did not smoke in pregnancy: in per cent, by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal and by region of Western Australia, Western Australia and Australia, 2011

	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
North Metropolitan	53.6	92.6
South Metropolitan	50.7	88.3
Goldfields	59.2	84.6
Great Southern	53.4	87.2
Kimberley	54.5	90.2
Mid West	60.4	87.3
Pilbara	64.4	90.3
South West	53.0	87.5
Wheatbelt	39.2	85.0
WA	54.9	89.8
Australia	50.0	88.3

Source: Data supplied by WA Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Unit 2014, custom report (unpublished); Australian comparison figure from Li Z et al 2013, *Australia's mothers and babies 2011*, Perinatal statistics series no. 28. Cat. no. PER 59, AIHW National Perinatal Epidemiology and Statistics Unit

Note: The percentage of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women who smoked during pregnancy was calculated after excluding women with unknown smoking status. Care must be taken when comparing percentages over time.

Table 3.2: Women who did not smoke in pregnancy: in per cent, states and territories, 2011

WA	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
87.9	88.8	87.8	83.9	83.0	81.6	90.0	74.0	86.8

Source: Li Z et al 2013, *Australia's mothers and babies 2011*, Perinatal statistics series no. 28. Cat. no. PER 59, AIHW National Perinatal Epidemiology and Statistics Unit

Note: Percentages calculated after excluding records with missing values (women with unknown smoking status). Care must be taken when interpreting percentages.

What is this measure?

This measure reports on the proportion of women who did not smoke during pregnancy.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, National Perinatal Epidemiology and Statistics Unit, collates data on maternal health and wellbeing from each jurisdiction across Australia. This data is published annually in the *Australia's mothers and babies report series*.

Disaggregated data by area of residence and Aboriginal status was provided by the WA Department of Health's Maternal and Child Health Unit as part of a custom report.

Commentary

Between 2003 and 2011 the number of women who did not smoke during pregnancy has increased in WA from 81.1 per cent to 87.9 per cent, moving from below to above the Australian averages of 82.7 per cent and 85.4 per cent in 2003 and 2011 respectively (Figure 3.1).⁵⁵

In 2011, WA recorded the third highest proportion (87.9%) of women who did not smoke during pregnancy in Australia behind NSW (88.8%) and the ACT (90.0%) (Table 3.2).

For each year between 2003 and 2011, pregnant women in regional areas of WA are less likely to have a smoke-free pregnancy than pregnant women in the metropolitan area (Figure 3.2). The difference between pregnant women in regional areas and those in the metropolitan area closed slightly between 2003 and 2011 (73.3% to 83.9% in 2003, compared with 82.4% to 89.5% in 2011) (Figure 3.2).

Aboriginal women are significantly more likely to smoke during pregnancy than non-Aboriginal women. Table 3.1 shows that there is considerable variation across different geographic regions of WA and between Aboriginal women and non-Aboriginal women. In 2011, Aboriginal women in the Pilbara region represented the highest proportion of non-smoking during pregnancy (64.4%) while Aboriginal women in the Wheatbelt region represented the lowest (39.2%). In comparison, non-Aboriginal women in the North Metropolitan region recorded the highest proportion of non-smoking during pregnancy (92.6%) while non-Aboriginal women in the Goldfields represented the lowest (84.6%).

Strategies

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

The framework sets out WA'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 the age of 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 maternal smoking

The annual *Australia's mothers and babies* report series provides perinatal statistics on births in Australia and is published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, available at www.aihw.gov.au/publications/

The WA Department of Health publishes annual information on WA births, available at www.health.wa.gov.au/publications/subject_index/p/Perinatal_infant_maternal.cfm



Research, reports and articles

Australia: the healthiest country by 2020. Technical Report No 2 Tobacco control in Australia: making smoking history, Commonwealth Government, available at www.preventativehealth.org.au/internet/preventativehealth/publishing.nsf/Content/tech-tobacco

Other information

Healthway was established by the Government of Western Australia 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/

