

# Factsheet 2

## Youth Smoking in New Zealand by Ethnicity



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This factsheet describes the daily, regular and never smoking rates across NZ European, Māori, Pacific, Asian and Other ethnicities in 2012, and shows trends in daily smoking for each ethnic group which participated in the ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey between 1999 and 2012. More detailed information on the smoking behaviour of Māori and Pacific students can be found in the separate Māori and Pacific factsheets.

The ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey has been used to monitor student smoking since 1999. This annual survey samples around half of the schools in New Zealand with Year 10 students. Results are reported for students who were 14 or 15 at the time of the survey. The results reported here are estimates for the whole population based on the Year 10 sample.

This is the largest survey of youth smoking in New Zealand and samples around half of all Year 10 students.

Up until 2010 the survey normally took place in term 3. Since 2011 the fieldwork has changed to term 2.

#### Methodology

To measure if students had ever tried smoking, they were asked: *Have you **ever** smoked a cigarette, even just a few puffs?* They can answer either 'yes' or 'no'.

To measure smoking frequency, students were asked: *How often do you smoke **now**?*

Options for response were: 'I have never smoked/I am not a smoker now', 'At least once a day', 'At least once a week', 'At least once a month', or 'Less often than once a month'.

*Regular smokers* are those students who report that they smoke daily, weekly or monthly.

To classify ethnicity, students were asked: *Which ethnic group or groups do you belong to?*

Options for response include 'NZ European', 'Māori', 'Samoa', 'Cook Island Māori', 'Tongan', 'Niuean', 'Other Pacific Island', 'Chinese', 'Indian', 'Other Asian' and 'Other'. In this factsheet the Pacific and Asian ethnicities are grouped together into *Pacific* or *Asian* ethnicities. Results by Pacific ethnicities can be found in the Pacific factsheet.

Prioritised ethnicity is used to allocate students who identify with more than one ethnic group into a single category for analysis. Students who tick more than one category are prioritised as Māori, Pacific, Asian, Other and finally NZ European.

The number of responses by ethnicity was: NZ European 16,304; Māori 5,574; Pacific 2,660; Asian 3,308 and Other 597.

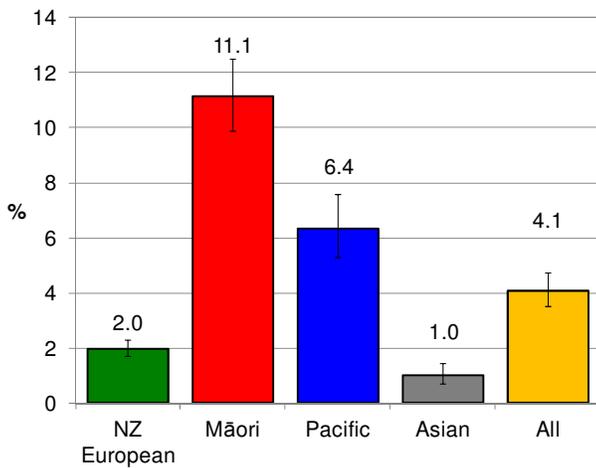
Detailed methodology can be found in the *methodology* factsheet.

#### Key findings

- There were no statistically significant changes in smoking prevalence from 2011 to 2012 for any ethnicity.
- 2% of NZ European, 11.1% of Māori, 6.4% of Pacific and 1% of Asian students were *daily smokers* in 2012.
- 5.1% of NZ European, 17.7% of Māori, 10.4% of Pacific and 1.9% of Asian students were *regular smokers* in 2012.
- 77.5% of NZ European, 44.4% of Māori, 55.7% of Pacific and 87.4% of Asian students were *never smokers* in 2012.
- The number of daily Māori smokers was 10.3% in 2011 and 11.1% in 2012. The percentage of Pacific daily smokers was 5.9% in 2011 and 6.4% in 2012.
- The long term trend for Māori and Pacific daily smoking continues to decline.

## Daily smokers

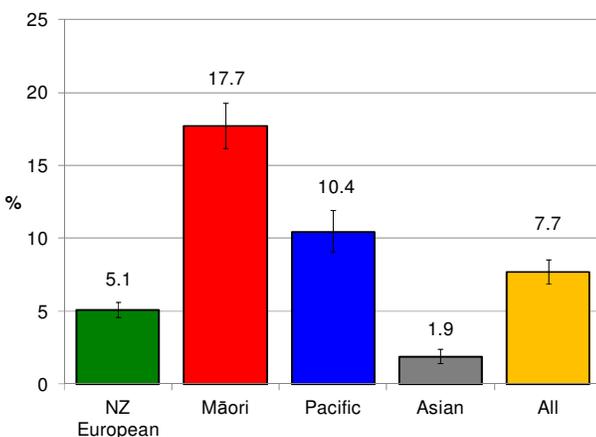
Figure 1: Percentage of Year 10 students who were daily smokers by ethnicity, 2012



## Regular smokers

Regular smokers are students who report that they smoke daily, weekly or monthly.

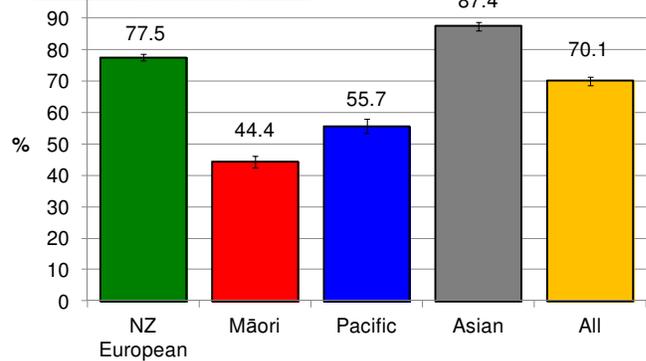
Figure 2: Percentage of Year 10 students who were regular smokers by Ethnicity, 2012



## Never smokers

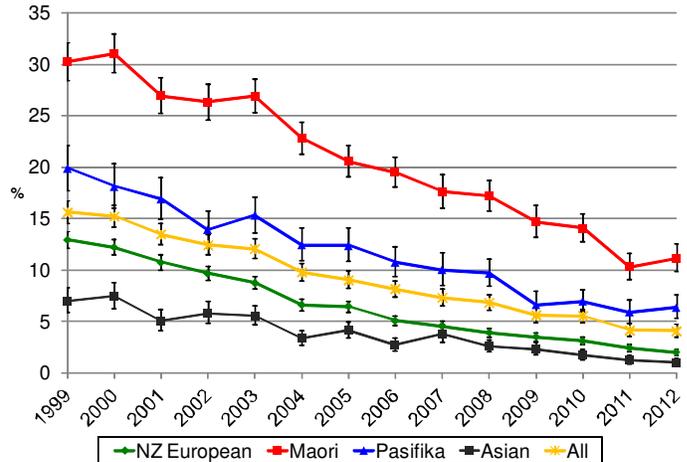
Never smokers are students who report that they have never tried a cigarette, even just one puff.

Figure 3: Percentage of Year 10 Students who were never smokers by ethnicity, 2012



## Smoking trends 1999-2012

Figure 4: Percentage of Year 10 students who were daily



## Discussion points

In 2011, and despite still having the highest *daily smoking* rates, Māori students had the biggest reduction in smoking from 2010 to 2011 of any ethnicity. However, 2012 results for Māori show a slight increase in *daily smoking* rates. Pacific students also recorded a slight increase in *daily smoking* rates. However the overall trend continues to show smoking rates are declining.

The 2012 smoking rates show that ethnic disparities are still significant. However, when looking at the trends over the last decade of surveys, the inequalities gap is still reducing.

Asian students are the least likely to smoke, followed by NZ European.

## Further information

Detailed information on the survey and further results from the 2012 and previous ASH Year 10 Surveys can be found at [www.ash.org.nz](http://www.ash.org.nz)

## Supplementary Tables

Supplementary Table 1: Percentage of Year 10 Students who Daily Smoked by Ethnicity 1999-2012

Daily Smoking %	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
NZ European	12.9	12.2	10.7	9.7	8.8	6.6	6.4	5.1	4.5	3.9	3.5	3.1	2.4	2.0
Māori	30.3	31.1	26.9	26.3	26.9	22.8	20.6	19.5	17.6	17.2	14.7	14.1	10.3	11.1
Pacific	19.9	18.1	16.9	13.9	15.3	12.4	12.4	10.7	10.0	9.7	6.6	7.0	5.9	6.4
Asian	7.0	7.5	5.1	5.8	5.5	3.3	4.1	2.7	3.8	2.6	2.3	1.7	1.2	1.0
All	15.6	15.2	13.5	12.4	12.1	9.8	9.0	8.2	7.3	6.8	5.6	5.5	4.1	4.1

Supplementary Table 2: Percentage of Year 10 Students who were Regular Smokers by Ethnicity 1999-2012

Regular Smoking %	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
NZ European	27.3	26.2	23.1	19.9	17.8	14.2	14.0	10.6	9.5	9.0	8.4	7.2	5.6	5.1
Māori	42.8	42.9	38.4	37.3	37.3	33.6	31.7	29.1	26.7	24.7	23.3	20.9	18.1	17.7
Pacific	28.6	28.2	26.3	22.1	23.4	21.7	21.0	17.7	16.4	14.1	11.7	12.2	10.7	10.4
Asian	11.9	12.0	9.3	9.4	8.9	6.4	6.8	4.8	5.8	4.2	4.4	3.4	2.6	1.9
All	28.6	27.9	24.8	22.1	20.7	17.6	16.8	14.2	12.8	11.9	10.9	10.0	8.2	7.7

Supplementary Table 3: Percentage of Year 10 Students who were Never Smokers by Ethnicity 1999-2012

Never Smoked %	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
NZ European	31.4	33.6	36.5	39.7	43.9	49.7	52.6	58.5	61.9	66.3	68.8	70.6	76.5	77.5
Māori	16.7	16.2	18.5	18.5	22.1	25.0	25.9	30.5	32.6	34.6	38.6	40.2	46.2	44.4
Pacific	33.6	35.2	35.2	37.0	38.3	40.8	41.2	45.4	49.0	52.4	55.2	54.0	61.1	55.7
Asian	62.0	62.4	68.2	68.1	71.6	75.3	74.1	78.9	80.3	81.8	84.3	84.2	88.3	87.4
All	31.6	33.0	35.9	38.4	42.4	47.0	49.4	54.0	57.3	60.7	64.0	64.4	70.4	70.1