

Factsheet 3

Youth smoking in New Zealand by gender



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This fact sheet describes daily, regular and never smoking rates for 14 - 15 year old New Zealand boys and girls in 2011 and shows trends over time in daily smoking from 1999 to 2011 for each.

The Year 10 ASH Snapshot Survey has been used to monitor student smoking since 1999. The survey samples around half of the schools in New Zealand with Year 10 students annually. 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.

The survey normally takes place in term 3. In 2011 the fieldwork was changed to term 2.

Methodology

To measure if they had ever tried smoking, students 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 include: '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. *Experimented* means students who have tried smoking, but do not currently smoke.

The number of responses by gender was; Boys: 12,741 (48% of respondents) and Girls: 13,904 (52% of respondents).

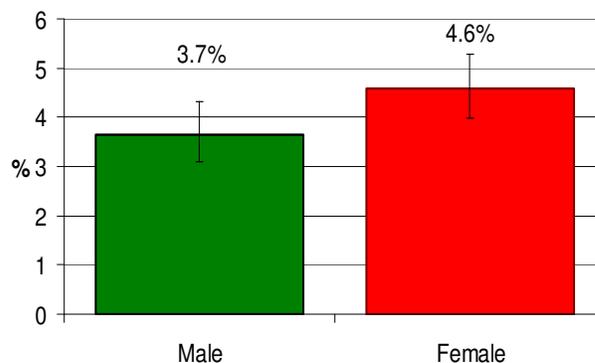
Detailed methodology can be found in the *methodology* factsheet.

Key findings

- 3.7% of year 10 boys and 4.6% of girls were *daily smokers*.
- 7% of boys and 9.3% of girls were *regular smokers*.
- 71.4% of boys and 69.6% of girls were *never smokers*.
- Daily and regular smoking has declined over time for boys and girls.

Daily smokers

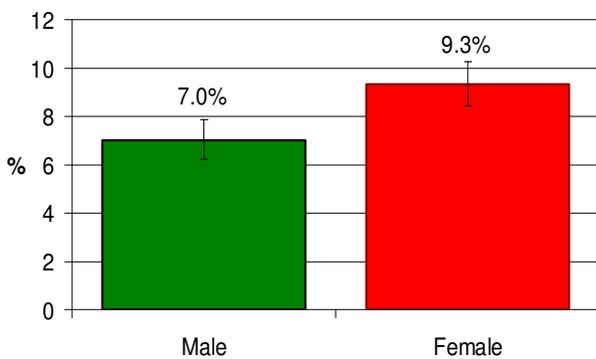
Figure 1: Percentage of Year 10 Students who were daily smokers by gender, 2011



Regular smokers

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

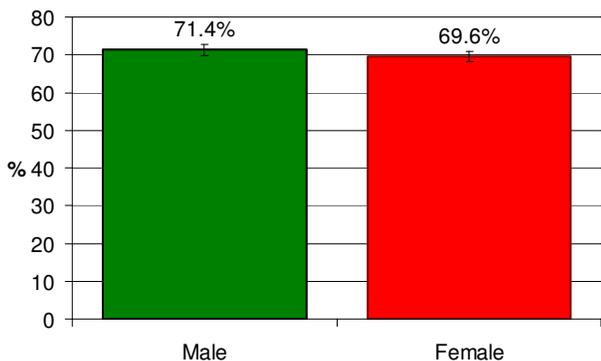
Figure 2: Percentage of Year 10 students who were regular smokers by gender, 2011



Never smokers

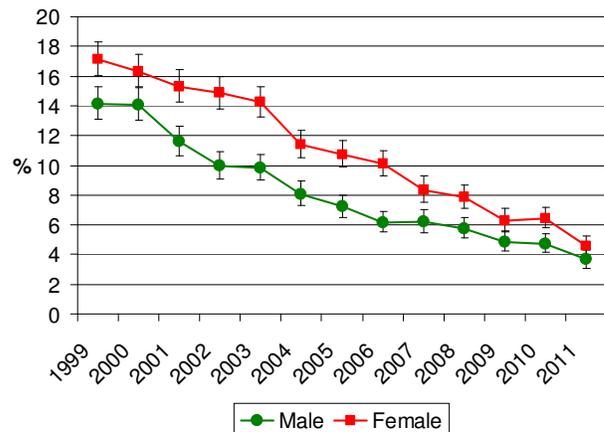
Never smokers are students who have answered 'no' when asked if they have ever smoked, even a puff.

Figure 3: Percentage of Year 10 Students who were never smokers by gender, 2011



Smoking trends

Figure 4: Percentage of Year 10 students who were daily smokers by gender, 1999-2011



Discussion points

- The daily smoking rate for Year 10 girls is slightly higher than boys.
- The year on year decline in daily smoking for boys and girls is the biggest since 2003 to 2004.

The survey was conducted a term earlier than in recent years. The average age of respondents would be a few months younger.

Further information

Detailed information on the survey and further results from the 2011 and previous ASH Year 10 surveys can be found at www.ash.org.nz.



Supplementary Tables

Supplementary Table 1: Smoking Status for all boys 1999-2011

Smoking Status: Boys	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Daily	14.2	14.1	11.6	9.9	9.8	8.1	7.2	6.2	6.2	5.8	4.9	4.7	3.7
Weekly	5.2	5.0	4.6	3.6	3.2	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.2	2.2	1.6
Monthly	5.4	5.3	4.8	3.8	3.4	2.9	3.0	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.7
Regular	24.8	24.4	21.0	17.4	16.4	13.8	12.9	10.8	10.6	9.7	9.1	8.7	7.0
Experimented	28.0	27.8	26.6	30.6	28.7	30.0	28.1	26.5	25.1	22.3	20.1	20.7	17.2
Never Smoked	33.3	34.7	37.7	41.1	45.9	49.8	52.5	57.3	58.9	63.2	66.3	65.3	71.4
Total (n)	14,393	14,496	14,340	14,333	16,245	15,460	15,657	16,289	12,467	15,133	12,169	17,119	12,741

Supplementary Table 2: Smoking Status for all girls, 1999-2011

Smoking Status: Girls	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Daily	17.1	16.3	15.3	14.9	14.2	11.4	10.7	10.1	8.3	7.9	6.3	6.4	4.6
Weekly	8.1	7.6	6.7	5.8	5.5	5.2	4.5	4.1	3.5	3.1	3.1	2.6	2.3
Monthly	7.2	7.5	6.5	6.0	5.2	4.7	5.2	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.1	2.3	2.4
Regular	32.4	31.4	28.5	26.6	24.9	21.3	20.4	17.7	14.9	14.0	12.5	11.4	9.3
Experimented	23.1	23.3	22.6	26.2	24.9	25.6	24.3	24.6	23.0	21.7	19.7	19.5	16.2
Never Smoked	29.9	31.4	34.2	35.7	39.0	44.2	46.5	50.7	55.8	58.3	61.9	63.3	69.6
Total (n)	14,503	14,702	14,869	14,849	16,460	16,169	16,907	16,538	13,511	15,739	13,590	15,486	13,904