

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 2011, and shows trends in daily smoking for each ethnicity group who participated in the Year 10 ASH Snapshot Survey between 1999 and 2011. More detailed information on the smoking behaviour of Māori and Pacific students can be found in the separate Māori, Pacific factsheets.

The ASH Year 10 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 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', 'Samoan', '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 15,762; Māori 5,229; Pacific 2,486; Asian 2,932 and Other 236.

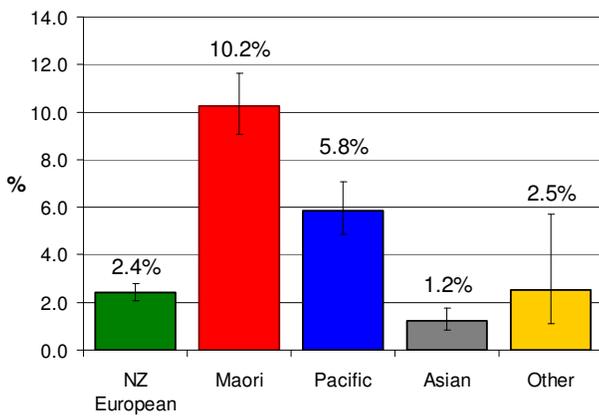
Detailed methodology can be found in the *methodology* factsheet.

Key findings

- There has been a decline in *daily smoking* for NZ European, Māori, Pacific and Asian Year 10 students.
- 2.4% of NZ European, 10.3% of Māori, 5.9% of Pacific and 1.2% of Asian students were *daily smokers* in 2011.
- 5.6% of NZ European, 18% of Māori, 10.7% of Pacific and 2.6% of Asian students were *regular smokers* in 2011.
- 76.5% of NZ European, 46.2% of Māori, 61.1% of Pacific and 88.3% of Asian students were *never smokers* in 2011.
- Māori students had the biggest decline in *daily smoking* compared to other ethnicities with a change from 14.1% in 2010 to 10.3% in 2011.

Daily smokers

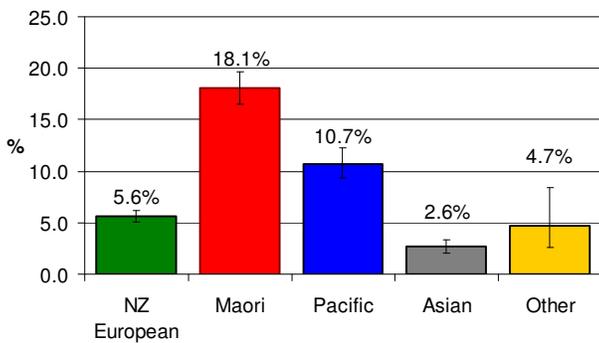
Figure 1: Percentage of Year 10 students who were daily smokers by ethnicity, 2011



Regular smokers

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

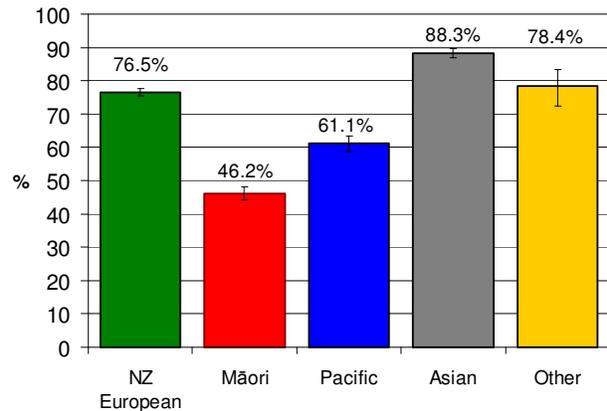
Figure 2: Percentage of Year 10 students who were regular smokers by Ethnicity, 2011



Never smokers

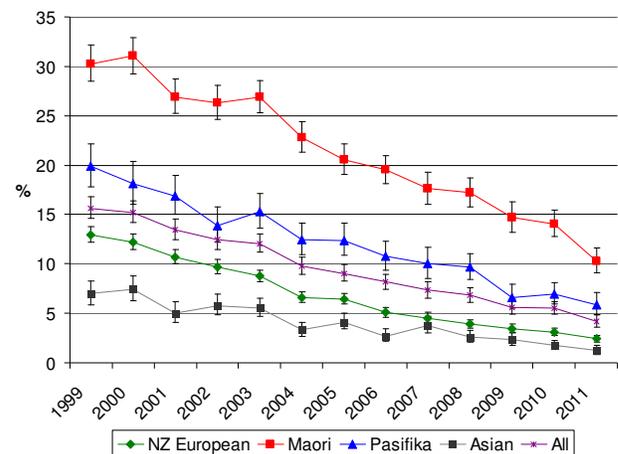
Never smokers are students who report that they have never tried a cigarette, even just one puff.

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



Smoking trends 1999-2011

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



Discussion points

Despite still having the highest *daily smoking* rates, Māori students had the biggest reduction in smoking from 2010 to 2011 of any ethnicity. The gap between Māori smoking and other ethnicities is closing.

The 2011 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 reducing.

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

Pacific students had the smallest decline in *daily smoking* rates from 2010 to 2011.

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: Percentage of Year 10 Students who Daily Smoked by Ethnicity 1999-2011

Daily Smoking %	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
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
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
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
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
Other	8.1	11.9	10.1	10.4	6.3	6.4	4.4	4.4	3.4	2.6	1.8	1.3	2.5

Supplementary Table 2: Percentage of Year 10 Students who were Regular Smokers by Ethnicity 1999-2011

Regular Smoking%	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
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
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
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
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
Other	19.8	22.1	15.9	18.8	12.6	12.1	9.9	8.4	7.0	5.7	5.7	3.2	4.7

Supplementary Table 3: Percentage of Year 10 Students who were Never Smokers by Ethnicity 1999-2011

Never Smoked %	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
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
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
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
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
Other	42.7	43.1	51.8	45.2	52.5	58.2	60.9	70.5	66.1	72.4	76.3	75.6	78.4