

Factsheet 1

Youth smoking in New Zealand



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This factsheet describes the daily, regular and never smoking rates for 14-15 year old students who participated in the Year 10 ASH Snapshot Survey 1999-2011.

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 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. *Experimented* means students who have tried smoking, but do not currently smoke.

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

Key findings

- 4.1% of all Year 10 students were *daily smokers*, a drop from 5.5% in 2010.
- This is the biggest year on year decline in youth *daily smoking* since 2003 to 2004.
- 8.2% of students were *regular smokers* (daily, weekly or monthly) in 2011, a drop from 10.0% in 2010.
- 70.4% of students were *never smokers*. An increase from 64.3% in 2010.

Figure 1. Percentage of Year 10 students who were daily or regular smokers, 1999-2011

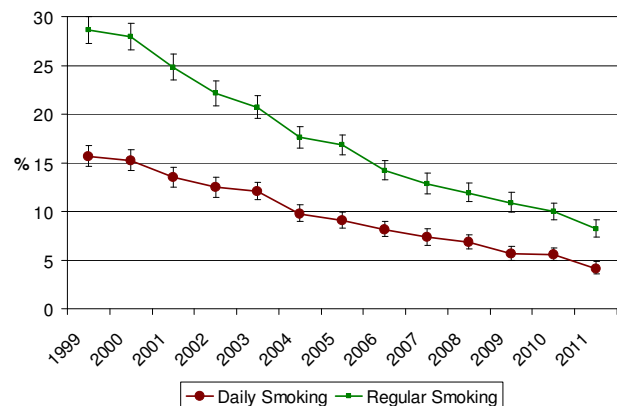
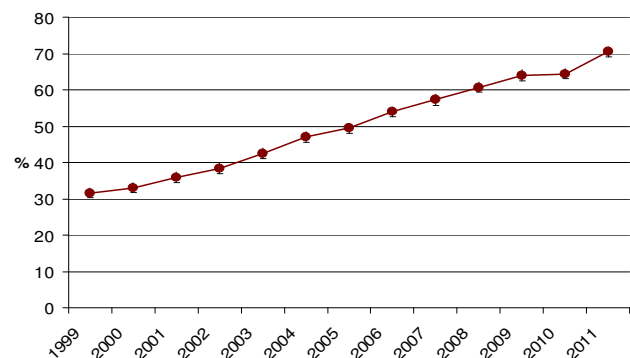


Figure 2. Percentage of Year 10 students who were never smokers, 1999-2011



Discussion points

The survey results show youth smoking at the lowest rate ever recorded. The decline in daily smoking between the 2010 and 2011 surveys is one of the biggest year on year drops since the survey began.

The increase in the number of students who have never smoked has also seen one of the biggest year on year changes since the survey began.

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. Methodology 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 students, 1999-2011

| Smoking Status | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Daily | 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 |
| Weekly | 6.7 | 6.3 | 5.7 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 4.0 | 3.6 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.4 | 2.0 |
| Monthly | 6.3 | 6.4 | 5.6 | 4.9 | 4.3 | 3.8 | 4.1 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.1 | 2.1 |
| Regular | 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 |
| Experimented | 25.5 | 25.5 | 24.6 | 28.4 | 26.8 | 27.7 | 26.1 | 25.5 | 24.0 | 22.0 | 19.9 | 20.1 | 16.7 |
| Never Smoked | 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 |
| Total (n) | 29,032 | 29,370 | 29,398 | 29,285 | 32,927 | 31,921 | 32,761 | 32,841 | 25,978 | 30,872 | 25,762 | 32,605 | 26,645 |

More supplementary tables may be found at www.ash.org.nz