

Smoking statistics

Adults

Just under 1 in 5 (19%) of adults in Great Britain now smoke: 20% of men and 17% of women. This means there are about **9.6 million adult smokers** in Great Britain.

Smoking rates have more than halved since 1974 when 51% of men and 41% of women smoked.

Smoking prevalence is **highest in the 25-34 age group** (24%) and lowest amongst those aged 60 and over (11%).

More than half (59%) of all adults report that they have never smoked.

Smoking rates are much higher among poorer people. In 2014, 13% of adults in managerial and professional occupations smoked compared with 30% in routine and manual occupations.

Quitting smoking

Surveys show that about two-thirds of current smokers would like to stop smoking but only about 30%-40% make a quit attempt in a given year.

Addiction

60% of smokers say they would find it hard to last a whole day without smoking and 70% have their first cigarette of the day within one hour of waking.

Deaths from smoking

About half of all regular cigarette smokers will eventually be killed by their addiction.

Every year, around **96,000 people in the UK die from diseases caused by smoking.**

Smoking accounts for over one-third of respiratory deaths, over one-quarter of cancer deaths, and about one-seventh of cardiovascular disease deaths.

Young people

Two-thirds of smokers start before age 18.

Of those who try smoking between one-third and one-half will become regular smokers.

It is illegal to sell cigarettes to any person under the age of 18.

Regional & national smoking rates

There is some variation in smoking rates by region in England and between countries within the UK.

- In 2014, the North East of England had the highest prevalence (19.9%) while the South East had the lowest at 16.6%.

In 2014, adult smoking rates by country were:

- England 19%
- Scotland 20%
- Wales 20%
- N.Ireland 22%

Government revenue and expenditure

In 2014-15 the Government received **£9.5 billion** in revenue from tobacco tax (excluding VAT).

In 2012-13 the Government spent £87.7m on services to help people stop smoking and a further £58.1m on stop smoking medication.

Tobacco smoke

Contains over 7,000 chemical compounds, present as either gases or as tiny particles. These include carbon monoxide, arsenic, formaldehyde, cyanide, benzene, toluene and acrolein.