

# Australian Health Survey 2011/12

## Tobacco use in Tasmania

Fact Sheet, October 2013

The statistics on tobacco use presented here are derived from an amalgamation of two national surveys: the Australian Health Survey (AHS) and the National Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey (NNPAS). With a combined sample of 2,472 Tasmanian households, both surveys asked respondents about their use of tobacco.

The results obtained from the combined surveys differ from previously published AHS data, although in many instances these differences are small. To maintain comparability with the results of previous NHS surveys, crude or non-age standardised rates have been used throughout this report.

### General Population

In 2011/12, Tasmania and the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of *current smokers* of all jurisdictions. This difference was statistically significant.

#### Current smokers\*, 18 years and over by jurisdiction, 2011/12

NSW	16.1%
Vic	18.3%
Qld	19.4%
SA	18.2%
WA	19.4%
<b>Tas</b>	<b>21.7%</b>
NT	25.1%
ACT	14.2%
Aus	18.0%

AHS 2011/12, Updated Results June 2013; \*Daily and occasional smokers combined

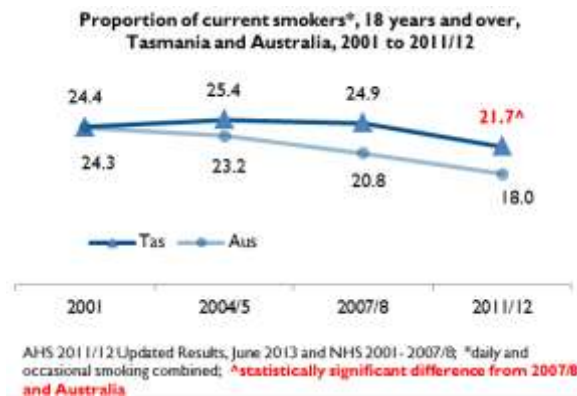
All jurisdictions, except Western Australia, experienced a decline in their *daily smoker* rates between 2007/8 and 2011/12.

#### Daily smoker trends since 2007/8 by Jurisdiction

	2007/8	2011/12	% change
NSW	18.9%	14.3%	-4.6%
Vic	17.1%	16.3%	-0.8%
Qld	21.5%	17.8%	-3.7%
SA	19.4%	16.1%	-3.3%
WA	17.3%	17.7%	+0.4%
Tas	23.3%	20.6%	-2.7%
NT	n/a	23.7%	n/a
ACT	15.3%	12.6%	-2.7%
Aus	18.9%	16.1%	-2.8%

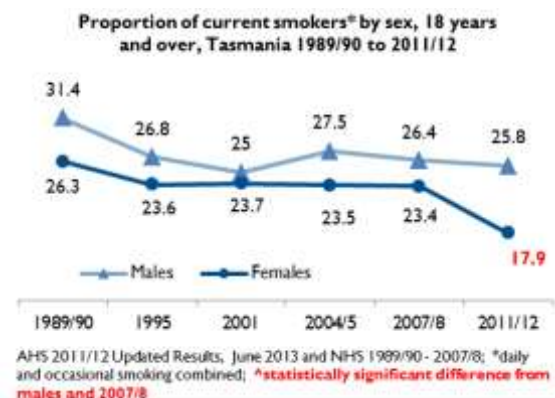
NHS 2007/8; AHS 2011/12, Updated Results June 2013

The graph below shows that although Tasmania's current smoking rate of 21.7% for 2011/12 is statistically significantly lower than five years ago; Tasmanian smoking rates continue to be statistically significantly higher than the Australian rate of 18%.



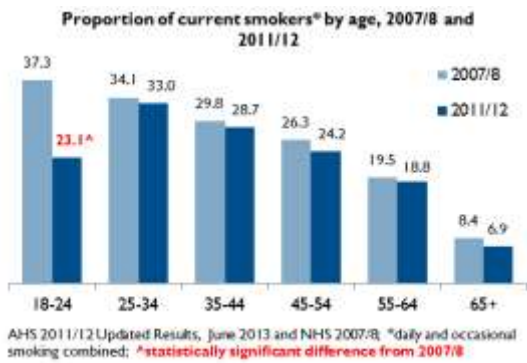
### Gender

Trend data below show a gradual decline in smoking rates for both males and females since 1989/90. In 2011/12 the *current smoker* rate for females saw a statistically significant fall from 23.4% in 2007/8 to 17.9%. National current smoker rates for 2011/12 were lower, with 20.3% and 15.7% for males and females respectively.



### Age Groups

The graph below shows that the age distribution of *current smokers* in Tasmania has remained relatively stable, except for a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of young smokers aged 18-24 years since 2007/8 from 37.3% to 23.1%. Nationally, the 2011/12 current smoker rate for the 18-24 year age group was 19.6%.



Marked differences in *current smoker* rates are evident for males and females in all age groups, except 18-24 years and 65 years and over. Nationally, the gender-age trends are similar to Tasmania, but with a smaller proportion of 18-24 year female smokers (17.6%).

**Proportion of current smokers\* by age and sex, Tasmania 2011/12**

	Males %	Females %
18-24	23.6	22.5
25-34	40.0	26.4
35-44	38.6	19.3
45-54	28.1	20.5
55-64	21.3	16.4
65+	6.9	6.9

AHS 2011/12, Updated Results, June 2013 \*daily and occasional smokers combined

**Ex-Smokers and Never Smoked**

Between the age of 25 and 54 years, more females than males quit smoking in Tasmania, possibly as an outcome of pregnancy and child rearing. Nationally, more males than females quit between the age of 25 and 54 years.

With older age, ex-smoking males outnumber females, particularly at the age of 65 years and over. This trend is also reflected at the national level.

**Proportion of ex-smokers by age and sex, Tasmania 2011/12**

	Males %	Females %
18-24	14.9	10.5
25-34	22.9	24.4
35-44	25.3	29.2
45-54	37.6	39.3
55-64	41.1	35.9
65+	63.1	35.0

AHS 2011/12, Updated Results, June 2013

Of those Tasmanians who had never smoked, females outnumbered males in all age groups. Nationally, the proportion of females who had never smoked were noticeably higher than Tasmania's in the 25-34 years and the 45-54 age groups with 58.4% and 48.5% respectively.

**Proportion of never smoked by age and sex, Tasmania 2011/12**

	Males %	Females %
18-24	61.5	67.0
25-34	37.1	49.2
35-44	36.1	51.5
45-54	34.3	40.2
55-64	37.6	47.7
65+	30.0	57.8

AHS 2011/12, Updated Results, June 2013

The proportion of Tasmanians aged 18 years and over who never smoked has remained relatively stable since 1989/90. The proportion of ex-smokers has shows a clear upward trend, with a statistically significant increase since 1989/90.

**Trends in quitting and never smoked, 18 years and over, Tasmania 1989/90 to 2011/12**

	ex-smoker %	never smoked %
1989/90	23.3	47.9
1995	31.8	42.7
2001	26.5	49.1
2004/5	32.3	42.2
2007/8	30.1	45.0
2011/12	33.4	44.9

NHS 1989-2007/8; AHS 2011/12, Updated Results, June 2013

**Socio-Economic Status**

Socio-economics play an important role in smoking, with smoking being twice as common among unemployed compared to employed Tasmanians. Of all Tasmanians aged 18 years and over who were employed in 2011/12, 23.2% were *daily smokers*, compared to 47.8% of all Tasmanians who reported to be unemployed.

**Proportion of daily smokers by workforce status, 18 years and over, Tasmania 2011/12**

Employed	23.2%
Unemployed	47.8%
Not in workforce	17.4%

AHS 2011/12, First Results, October 2012, Table 5.3

Smoking continues to be much more prevalent among Tasmanians residing in areas experiencing the greatest socio-economic disadvantage.

Of all Tasmanians aged 18 years and over who live in the most disadvantaged geographic areas (quintile 1) more than one in four (28.2%) are *daily smokers*. Of those who reside in the least disadvantaged area (quintile 5) about one in eight (12.1%) are daily smokers. The differences in the proportions of smokers in these quintiles is statistically significant.

This distribution is similar at the national level, with 23% of daily smokers in the most disadvantaged first quintile, and 9.9% in the least disadvantaged fifth quintile.

