

Smoking and vaping in SA – Key Statistics 2024

SMOKING PREVALENCE AMONG SOUTH AUSTRALIANS AGED 15+, 2024

	Daily smoking (%)	95% CI	All smoking ^a (%)	95% CI
Males	10.1	±1.6	14.1	±1.8
Females	7.1	±1.3	8.6	±1.4
15-29 years	6.9	±2.0	11.9	±2.5
30-44 years	8.0	±2.0	11.7	±2.4
45-59 years	12.5	±2.5	14.5	±2.7
60+ years	7.3	±1.6	8.2	±1.7
Total (15+ years)	8.6	±1.0	11.3	±1.1

^a Defined as those who reported smoking daily, weekly, or less than weekly.

Note: Age standardised to 2021 population.

SMOKING PREVALENCE OVER TIME

Age (years)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Daily smoking (%)										
15+	13.1	12.7	13.7	8.4	9.7	10.6	9.6	8.1	8.7	8.6
(95% CI)	±1.4	±1.4	±1.2	±1.0	±1.1	±1.1	±1.1	±1.0	±1.0	±1.0
15-29	12.3	11.2	12.2	4.5	7.9	11.3	9.7	4.8	7.2	6.9
(95% CI)	±2.9	±2.7	±3.0	±1.7	±2.3	±2.4	±2.5	±1.9	±2.6	±2.0
30-59	16.8	16.0	18.7	13.0	13.6	12.8	11.8	10.8	11.0	10.2
(95% CI)	±2.3	±2.3	±2.4	±1.7	±1.7	±1.7	±1.6	±1.5	±1.5	±1.6
All smoking (%)										
15+	15.2	14.6	15.9	11.8	12.4	13.4	11.9	11.1	10.4	11.3
(95% CI)	±1.5	±1.5	±1.6	±1.2	±1.2	±1.2	±1.2	±1.1	±1.1	±1.1
15-29	17.6	13.1	15.7	10.3	11.4	15.9	12.6	9.6	8.7	11.9
(95% CI)	±3.3	±2.9	±3.4	±0.0	±0.0	±0.0	±0.0	±2.6	±2.8	±2.5
30-59	18.4	18.6	20.9	17.0	16.7	16.0	14.5	14.3	13.3	13.1
(95% CI)	±2.4	±2.4	±2.5	±0.0	±0.0	±0.0	±0.0	±1.7	±1.7	±1.8

Note: Historical data have been updated to reflect age-standardisation to the 2021 population.

There were no statistically significant differences between 2024 and 2023.

SMOKING PREVALENCE AMONG SA SCHOOL CHILDREN, 2022/23

In 2022/23, 3.3% (2.8% of males and 3.6% of females) of school students aged 12-17 were current smokers (i.e., had smoked in the past week), which was statistically similar to 2017 (2.5%). A total of 2.5% of 12-15 year olds were current smokers and 5.0% of 16-17 year olds were current smokers.

Source: Australian Secondary Students' Alcohol and Drug survey 2022/23 Topline results.

VAPING PREVALENCE AMONG SA SCHOOL CHILDREN, 2022/23

In 2022/23, 15.0% (14.4% of males and 15.6% of females) of school students aged 12-17 vaped on at least once during the past month, which was significantly higher than 2017 (2.4%). Past month vaping was 7.6% among students aged 12-15 years and 31.1% among students aged 16-17 years. Daily vaping was 1.8% among 12-17 year old students (1.2% 12-15 year olds, 3.1% 16-17 year olds; 1.7% males, 2.0% females).

Source: Australian Secondary Students' Alcohol and Drug survey 2022/23 Topline results.

Citation: Health Policy Centre. *Smoking and vaping in SA – Key Statistics 2024*, Adelaide, Australia. South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), 9 January 2025.

VAPING PREVALENCE AMONG SOUTH AUSTRALIANS AGED 15+, 2024

	Daily vaping (%)	95% CI	All vaping ^a (%)	95% CI
Males	2.2	±0.8	4.9	±1.1
Females	1.3	±0.6	3.8	±1.0
15-29 years	3.3	±1.4	10.8	±2.4
30-44 years	2.0	±1.1	4.4	±1.5
45-59 years	1.8	±1.0	2.7	±1.2
60+ years	0.3	±0.3	0.8	±0.6
Total (15+ years)	1.7	±0.5	4.3	±0.7

^a Defined as those who reported using e-cigarettes daily, weekly, or less than weekly.

Note: Age standardised to 2021 population.

VAPING PREVALENCE OVER TIME

Age (years)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Daily vaping (%)										
15+	0.5	0.5	0.6	1.2	0.7	0.9	1.4	1.8	2.0	1.7
(95% CI)	±0.3	±0.3	±0.3	±0.4	±0.3	±0.3	±0.4	±0.5	±0.5	±0.5
15-29	0.1	0.1	0.6	2.2	0.0	0.9	2.9	3.7	2.3	3.3
(95% CI)	±0.3	±0.3	±0.7	±1.2	±0.0	±0.7	±1.4	±1.7	±1.5	±1.4
30-59	0.7	1.0	0.7	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.8	3.0	1.9
(95% CI)	±0.5	±0.6	±0.5	±0.6	±0.6	±0.6	±0.6	±0.7	±0.8	±0.7
All vaping (%)										
15+	1.6	1.2	1.0	2.1	1.9	2.6	2.1	3.6	6.7	4.3
(95% CI)	±0.5	±0.5	±0.4	±0.5	±0.5	±0.6	±0.5	±0.7	±0.9	±0.7
15-29	2.8	1.3	1.0	2.4	2.0	3.3	4.8	8.4	15.1	10.8
(95% CI)	±1.4	±1.0	±0.9	±1.3	±1.2	±1.3	±1.8	±2.4	±3.6	±2.4
30-59	1.9	1.9	1.1	3.1	2.8	3.6	1.5	3.1	6.7	3.6
(95% CI)	±0.8	±0.9	±0.6	±0.9	±0.8	±1.0	±0.6	±0.9	±1.2	±1.0

Note: Historical data have been updated to reflect age-standardisation to the 2021 population.

Red text indicates statistically significant difference between 2024 and 2023.

VAPING STATUS BY SMOKING STATUS, 2024

	Smokers (%)	Ex-smokers (%)	Never smokers (%)	Total (%)
Current e-cigarette user ^a	14.7	4.1	2.4	4.2
Not current user but...				
Tried within past 12 months	15.3	3.2	2.9	4.4
Tried over 12 months ago	26.3	17.4	8.0	12.4
Heard of e-cigs but never tried	40.7	73.3	82.1	75.2
Never heard of e-cigarettes	2.9	2.0	4.7	3.8

Note: Figures are not age-standardised and may differ slightly to age-standardised results above.

^a Defined as those who reported using e-cigarettes daily, weekly, or less than weekly.

Note: Small variations in overall prevalence estimates may occur across analyses due to rounding of weighted data. Red dotted lines indicate change of data source from the SA Health Omnibus Survey (a face-to-face survey) to the SA Population Health Survey Module System (a phone survey). Estimates of smoking prevalence from phone surveys are approximately 3% lower than those derived from face-to-face surveys, and this should be considered when interpreting results.