

Smoking and e-cigarette use in SA – Key Statistics 2023

SMOKING PREVALENCE AMONG SOUTH AUSTRALIANS AGED 15+, 2023

	Daily smoking % (95% CI)	Current smoking ^a % (95% CI)
Males	10.7 (±1.6)	12.6 (±1.7)
Females	6.8 (±1.3)	8.2 (±1.4)
15-29 years	7.2 (±2.6)	8.7 (±2.8)
30-44 years	9.0 (±2.0)	12.3 (±2.3)
45-59 years	13.0 (±2.3)	14.2 (±2.4)
60+ years	6.4 (±1.5)	7.2 (±1.6)
Total (15+ years)	8.7 (±1.0)	10.4 (±1.1)

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

Note: Standardised to 2021 population.

SMOKING PREVALENCE OVER TIME

Age (years)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Daily smokers (%)										
15+	12.2	13.1	12.7	13.7	8.4	9.7	10.6	9.6	8.1	8.7
(95% CI)	±1.5	±1.4	±1.4	±1.2	±1.0	±1.1	±1.1	±1.1	±1.0	±1.0
15-29	10.5	12.3	11.2	12.2	4.5	7.9	11.3	9.7	4.8	7.2
(95% CI)	±2.8	±2.9	±2.7	±3.0	±1.7	±2.3	±2.4	±2.5	±1.9	±2.6
30-59	16.8	16.8	16.0	18.7	13.0	13.6	12.8	11.8	10.8	11.0
(95% CI)	±2.4	±2.3	±2.3	±2.4	±1.7	±1.7	±1.7	±1.6	±1.5	±1.5
Current smoking (%)										
15+	15.0	15.2	14.6	15.9	11.8	12.4	13.4	11.9	11.1	10.4
(95% CI)	±1.6	±1.5	±1.5	±1.6	±1.2	±1.2	±1.2	±1.2	±1.1	±1.1
15-29	15.4	17.6	13.1	15.7	10.3	11.4	15.9	12.6	9.6	8.7
(95% CI)	±3.3	±3.3	±2.9	±3.4	±2.5	±2.8	±2.8	±2.8	±2.6	±2.8
30-59	20.0	18.4	18.6	20.9	17.0	16.7	16.0	14.5	14.3	13.3
(95% CI)	±2.6	±2.4	±2.4	±2.5	±1.9	±1.8	±1.9	±1.8	±1.7	±1.7

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

There were no statistically significant differences between 2023 and 2022.

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.

E-CIGARETTE USE 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 used an e-cigarette on at least once during the past month, which was significantly higher than 2017 (2.4%). Past month e-cigarette use was 7.6% among students aged 12-15 years and 31.1% among students aged 16-17 years. Daily e-cigarette use 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 e-cigarette use in SA – Key Statistics 2023*, Adelaide, Australia. South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), April 2024.

E-CIGARETTE USE AMONG SOUTH AUSTRALIANS AGED 15+, 2023

	Daily e-cigarette use % (95% CI)	Current e-cigarette use ^a % (95% CI)
Males	2.3 (±0.8)	8.8 (±1.5)
Females	1.6 (±0.6)	4.8 (±1.1)
15-29 years	2.3 (±1.5)	15.1 (±3.6)
30-44 years	4.3 (±1.4)	9.1 (±2.0)
45-59 years	1.6 (±0.9)	4.2 (±1.4)
60+ years	0.3 (±0.3)	0.8 (±0.5)
Total (15+ years)	2.0 (±0.5)	6.7 (±0.9)

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

Note: Standardised to 2021 population.

E-CIGARETTE USE OVER TIME

Age (years)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Daily e-cigarette use (%)										
15+	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.6	1.2	0.7	0.9	1.4	1.8	2.0
(95% CI)	±0.2	±0.3	±0.3	±0.3	±0.4	±0.3	±0.3	±0.4	±0.5	±0.5
15-29	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.6	2.2	0.0	0.9	2.9	3.7	2.3
(95% CI)	±0.7	±0.3	±0.3	±0.7	±1.2	±0.0	±0.7	±1.4	±1.7	±1.5
30-59	0.4	0.7	1.0	0.7	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.8	3.0
(95% CI)	±0.4	±0.5	±0.6	±0.5	±0.6	±0.6	±0.6	±0.6	±0.7	±0.8
Current e-cigarette use (%)										
15+	1.1	1.6	1.2	1.0	2.1	1.9	2.6	2.1	3.6	6.7
(95% CI)	±0.5	±0.5	±0.5	±0.4	±0.5	±0.5	±0.6	±0.5	±0.7	±0.9
15-29	2.6	2.8	1.3	1.0	2.4	2.0	3.3	4.8	8.4	15.1
(95% CI)	±1.4	±1.4	±1.0	±0.9	±1.3	±1.2	±1.3	±1.8	±2.4	±3.6
30-59	1.1	1.9	1.9	1.1	3.1	2.8	3.6	1.5	3.1	6.7
(95% CI)	±0.7	±0.8	±0.9	±0.6	±0.9	±0.8	±1.0	±0.6	±0.9	±1.2

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

Red text indicates statistically significant difference between 2023 and 2022.

E-CIGARETTE USE BY SMOKING STATUS, 2023

	Smokers n=325 % (95% CI)	Ex-smokers n=921 % (95% CI)	Never smokers n=1745 % (95% CI)	Total n=2991 % (95% CI)
Current e-cigarette users ^a	14.5 (±3.8)	6.8 (±1.6)	4.2 (±0.9)	6.2 (±0.9)
Former e-cigarette users ^b	3.7 (±2.1)	2.3 (±1.0)	0.0 (±0.0)	1.1 (±0.4)
Tried e-cigarettes ^c	40.0 (±5.3)	15.1 (±2.3)	7.2 (±1.2)	13.2 (±1.2)
Never used e-cigarettes	41.8 (±5.4)	75.8 (±2.8)	88.5 (±1.5)	79.5 (±1.4)

Note: Figures are not standardised and may differ to standardised results.

^a Used e-cigarettes daily, weekly, or less than weekly; ^b Used e-cigarettes more than 100 times but were not current users; ^c Tried e-cigarettes on less than 100 occasions and were not current users.

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.

Smoking and e-cigarette use in SA – Key Statistics 2023

DEATHS ATTRIBUTABLE TO TOBACCO, 2018

There are approximately 1,413 tobacco-attributable deaths annually in South Australia and 20,482 across Australia (based on 2018 data).

Source: Extrapolated from: Australian Burden of Disease Study: Impact and causes of illness and death in Australia, 2018. Table 6.2. Accessed 22 April 2021. Doi:10.25816/5ps1-j259.

SMOKING IN ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES, 2018-19

In 2018-19, 40.4% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples aged 18 years and over (age-standardised) in South Australia were daily smokers (40.1% across Australia).

Source: 4715.0 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, Australia, 2018-19. Released 11 Dec 2019. Australian Bureau of Statistics. Accessed 9 Feb 2023.

EXPOSURE TO SECOND-HAND SMOKE, 2023

In 2023, 57.4% of the South Australian population reported that they had been exposed to someone else's cigarette smoking in the past two weeks.

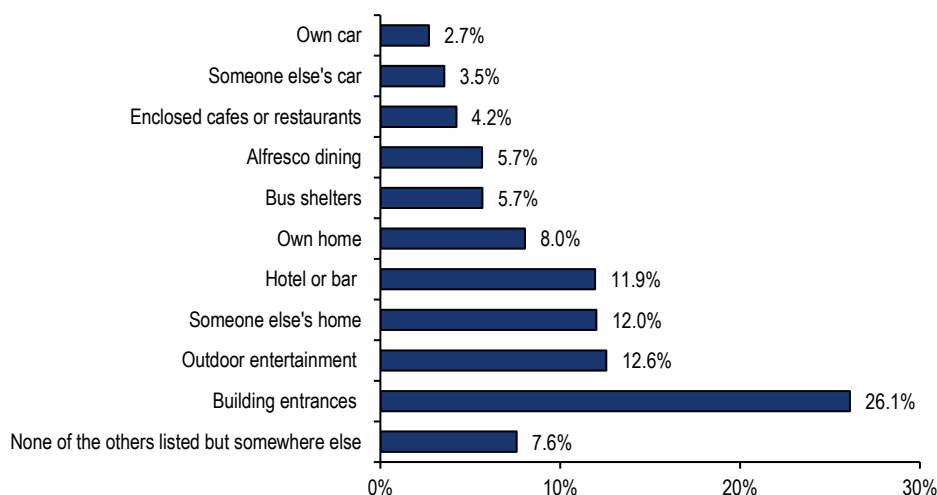


Figure: Exposure to passive smoke in various locations in the past two weeks, 2023

QUIT ATTEMPTS, 2023

The majority of South Australian smokers had made a previous attempt to quit smoking (89.4%); 48.4% tried to quit in the past year and 55.7% intended to try to quit in the next six months. Among current e-cigarette users, 45.8% had made a previous quit attempt.

DAILY SMOKING AMONG PRIORITY GROUPS, 2020-2023

	2020 % (95% CI)	2021 % (95% CI)	2022 % (95% CI)	2023 % (95% CI)
Level of disadvantage	n=2990	n=3000	n=3001	n=3001
Two most disadvantaged quintiles	13.0 (±2.0)	14.2 (±2.0)	11.0 (±21.8)	14.2 (±2.0)
Most disadvantaged	14.8 (±2.8)	16.5 (±2.8)	11.9 (±2.4)	16.7 (±2.8)
Second quintile	11.0 (±2.7)	11.3 (±2.8)	9.8 (±2.5)	10.7 (±2.7)
Third quintile	8.6 (±2.3)	11.1 (±2.6)	6.7 (±2.1)	6.8 (±2.1)
Fourth quintile	8.9 (±2.4)	6.7 (±2.1)	7.7 (±2.2)	6.1 (±1.9)
Least disadvantaged	8.9 (±2.1)	4.8 (±1.6)	4.8 (±1.6)	4.1 (±1.5)
Mental health problem	n=2989	n=3000	n=3000	n=3003
None	8.7 (±1.1)	8.6 (±1.1)	6.8 (±1.0)	7.8 (±1.1)
General	19.5 (±3.6)	16.9 (±3.3)	14.7 (±3.0)	12.9 (±2.6)
Severe	21.3 (±10.3)	16.7 (±11.3)	21.3 (±9.3)	23.8 (±10.5)
General or severe (Target 9)	18.9 (±3.5)	16.6 (±3.2)	14.5 (±2.9)	13.6 (±2.7)
Area of residence	n=2988	n=3001	n=3000	n=3004
Metropolitan Adelaide	9.8 (±1.2)	8.6 (±1.2)	7.3 (±1.1)	8.8 (±1.2)
Country South Australia	12.0 (±2.3)	14.0 (±2.4)	10.8 (±2.2)	9.8 (±2.0)

Note: Historical data have been updated to reflect the latest Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage. Red text indicates statistically significant difference between 2023 and 2022.

CURRENT E-CIGARETTE USE AMONG SMOKING PRIORITY GROUPS, 2020-2023

	2020 % (95% CI)	2021 % (95% CI)	2022 % (95% CI)	2023 % (95% CI)
Level of disadvantage	n=2993	n=3006	n=3002	n=2998
Most disadvantaged	2.1 (±1.1)	2.6 (±1.2)	5.4 (±1.7)	6.2 (±1.8)
Second quintile	4.6 (±1.8)	1.6 (±1.1)	4.1 (±1.7)	9.0 (±2.5)
Third quintile	3.4 (±1.5)	2.0 (±1.1)	2.1 (±1.2)	5.7 (±1.9)
Fourth quintile	1.6 (±1.0)	2.0 (±1.2)	2.2 (±1.2)	3.7 (±1.5)
Least disadvantaged	1.7 (±0.9)	1.9 (±1.0)	2.1 (±1.1)	6.3 (±1.9)
Mental health problem	n=2994	n=3006	n=3002	n=2999
None	2.5 (±0.6)	2.0 (±0.5)	2.5 (±0.6)	5.6 (±0.9)
General	2.9 (±1.5)	2.2 (±1.3)	6.3 (±2.0)	7.6 (±2.1)
Severe	6.6 (±6.2)	4.8 (±6.4)	5.3 (±5.0)	15.6 (±8.9)
General or severe	3.2 (±1.6)	2.4 (±1.3)	6.3 (±2.0)	8.2 (±2.1)
Area of residence	n=2995	n=3005	n=3002	n=2999
Metropolitan Adelaide	2.7 (±0.7)	2.4 (±0.6)	3.4 (±0.8)	7.0 (±1.1)
Country South Australia	2.4 (±1.0)	1.1 (±0.7)	2.8 (±1.1)	3.8 (±1.3)

Note: Historical data have been updated to reflect the latest Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage. Red text indicates statistically significant difference between 2023 and 2022.

Daily smoking was higher among people living in disadvantaged areas and those with mental health problems. Current e-cigarette use was higher among people living in metropolitan areas and those with mental health problems.