



## Smoking and marijuana use rates

Extracted from *Australia's health 2010*

Pages 84–88

Tobacco smoking is the single most preventable cause of ill health and death in Australia. However, Australia's level of smoking continues to fall and is among the lowest for OECD countries, with a daily smoking rate of about 1 in 6 (around 2.9 million) Australians aged 14 years and over now smoke daily, compared with around half of adults in the 1950s.

Smoking rates among children and young people have fallen apace in recent times: among those aged 12–19 years in 2007, about 1 in 18 smoked daily.

Males were more likely to be daily smokers (18.0%) than females (15.2%). More than half of the population had never smoked (55.4%), and around a quarter of the population were former smokers. Males were more likely to be ex-smokers (27.9%) than females (22.4%).

Over the past decade, there has also been a clear and steady fall in the use of marijuana/cannabis. In 2007, fewer than 1 in 10 (9%) of those aged 14 years and over reported having used it in the receding 12 months.

### Prevalence of smoking and marijuana use: trends

