

## 2.18 Tobacco use

The proportion of Indigenous Australians who are current regular smokers

### Data sources

Data for this indicator come from the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey.

#### National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey

The 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) collected information from 10,439 Indigenous Australians of all ages. This sample was considerably larger than the supplementary Indigenous samples in the 1995 and 2001 National Health Surveys. The survey was conducted in remote and non-remote areas of Australia and collected a range of information from Indigenous Australians. This included issues of health-related actions, health risk factors, health status, socioeconomic circumstances and women's health. The survey provides comparisons over time in the health of Indigenous Australians. It is planned to repeat the NATSIHS at 6-yearly intervals, with the next NATSIHS to be conducted in 2010–11. Selected non-Indigenous comparisons are available through the 2004–05 National Health Survey (NHS).

#### National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducted the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) between August 2002 and April 2003. The 2008 NATSISS was conducted between August 2008 and April 2009. The survey provides information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations of Australia for a wide range of areas of social concern including health, education, culture and labour force participation. The 2008 NATSISS included for the first time children aged under 15. The NATSISS will be conducted every 6 years with the next survey planned for 2013.

The 2008 NATSISS collected information by personal interview from 13,300 Indigenous Australians across all states and territories of Australia, including those living in remote areas. The sample covered persons aged 15 years and over who are usual residents in selected private dwellings. It collected information on a wide range of subjects including family and culture, health, education, employment, income, financial stress, housing, and law and justice.

### Data analyses

#### Smoking status

Smoking prevalence data presented below are from the 2008 NATSISS, with non-Indigenous comparisons from the 2007–08 National Health Survey.

- In 2008, approximately 48% of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over reported they were current daily smokers, 2% were current smokers weekly or less than weekly; 21% were ex-smokers and 29% reported that they had never smoked (Table 2.18.1).

- Indigenous Australians were more than twice as likely to be current daily smokers as non-Indigenous Australians (Table 2.18.1).

### **Smoking status by age group and sex**

- A higher proportion of Indigenous males aged 18 years and over were current daily smokers compared to females of the same age (50% compared with 46%) (Table 2.18.1).
- The highest proportion of current daily smokers were among Indigenous persons aged 25-34 years (53%) (Table 2.18.1).
- Around one in five (20%) of Indigenous persons aged 15 to 17 years were current daily smokers. The rate ratio of Indigenous smokers to non-Indigenous smokers was also greatest at this age group (Table 2.18.1 and Table 2.1.8.2).
- The rate ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous smokers ranged from 3.2 in persons aged 15 to 17 years, to 2.2 for age groups 25-34, 35-44 and 45-54 years (Table 2.18.2).

**Table 2.18.1: Smoker status (per cent), by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2008**

		Current smoker			Ex-smoker	Never smoked	Total	Total number
		Daily	Other <sup>(a)</sup>	Total smokers				
<b>Males</b>								
15–17 years	Indigenous	17.7*	2.8 <sup>(b)</sup>	20.5*	5.5 <sup>(b)</sup>	74*	100.0	..
	Non-Indigenous	8.0 <sup>(b)</sup>	0.9 <sup>(c)</sup>	8.9	3.0 <sup>(b)</sup>	88.0	100.0	..
18–24 years	Indigenous	50.1*	4.0 <sup>(b)</sup>	54.2*	9.9	36.0*	100.0	..
	Non-Indigenous	18.8	4.5 <sup>(b)</sup>	23.3	11.7	65.0	100.0	..
25–34 years	Indigenous	56.0*	2.5 <sup>(b)</sup>	58.5*	16.8*	24.7*	100.0	..
	Non-Indigenous	29.2	3.2	32.4	25.7	41.9	100.0	..
35–44 years	Indigenous	55.5*	3.4	58.9*	18.3*	22.8*	100.0	..
	Non-Indigenous	25.9	2.0	27.9	26.9	45.2	100.0	..
45–54 years	Indigenous	47.9*	1.5 <sup>(b)</sup>	49.4*	32.8	17.8*	100.0	..
	Non-Indigenous	22.4	1.7 <sup>(b)</sup>	24.1	37.4	38.5	100.0	..
55+ years	Indigenous	32.8*	1.0 <sup>(c)</sup>	33.8*	43.6	22.6*	100.0	..
	Non-Indigenous	11.7	0.5 <sup>(b)</sup>	12.2	52.6	35.3	100.0	..
<b>Total (15 years and over)</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>46.1*</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>48.8*</b>	<b>19.8*</b>	<b>31.4*</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>

(continued)

Table 2.18.1 (continued): Smoker status (per cent), by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2008

		Current smoker			Ex-smoker	Never smoked	Total	Total number
		Daily	Other <sup>(a)</sup>	Total smokers				
Total age-standardised (15 years and over)	Indigenous	45.1	2.3	47.4	25.8	26.8	100.0	..
	Non-Indigenous	20.2	2.0	22.2	32.5	45.3	100.0	..
	Rate ratio <sup>(d)</sup>	2.2	1.1	2.1	0.8	0.6	1.0	..
Total (18 years and over)	Indigenous	49.9*	2.7	52.6*	21.8*	25.6*	100.0	..
	Non-Indigenous	20.5	2.0	22.6	34.5	42.9	100.0	..
Total age-standardised (18 years and over)	Indigenous	46.9	2.3	49.2	27.0	23.9	100.0	..
	Non-Indigenous	20.9	2.1	22.9	34.1	43.0	100.0	..
	Rate ratio <sup>(d)</sup>	2.2	1.1	2.1	0.8	0.6	1.0	..
<b>Females</b>								
15–17 years	Indigenous	21.5*	2.3 <sup>(b)</sup>	23.8*	7.1 <sup>(b)</sup>	69.1*	100.0	..
	Non-Indigenous	4.3 <sup>(b)</sup>	0.2	4.5	3.9 <sup>(b)</sup>	91.6	100.0	..
18–24 years	Indigenous	49.2*	2.5	51.8*	14.1	34.2*	100.0	..
	Non-Indigenous	18.1	3.8	21.9	13.0	65.1	100.0	..
25–34 years	Indigenous	50.1*	3.4 <sup>(b)</sup>	53.5*	19.1	27.4*	100.0	..
	Non-Indigenous	18.9	3.1	22.0	23.9	54.1	100.0	..
35–44 years	Indigenous	47.3*	0.8 <sup>(b)</sup>	48.1*	22.5	29.4*	100.0	..
	Non-Indigenous	19.8	1.9	21.7	26.7	51.6	100.0	..
45–54 years	Indigenous	46.1*	0.6 <sup>(c)</sup>	46.7*	25.4	27.9*	100.0	..
	Non-Indigenous	20.3	1.1 <sup>(b)</sup>	21.4	25.9	52.7	100.0	..

(continued)

Table 2.18.1 (continued): Smoker status (per cent), by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2008

		Current smoker			Ex-smoker	Never smoked	Total	Total number
		Daily	Other <sup>(a)</sup>	Total smokers				
55+ years	Indigenous	30.6*	0.4 <sup>(c)</sup>	30.9*	27.6	41.5*	100.0	..
	Non-Indigenous	11.1	0.4 <sup>(c)</sup>	11.5	30.0	58.5	100.0	..
Total (15 years and over)	Indigenous	43.1*	1.8	44.9*	19.6*	35.5*	100.0	..
	Non-Indigenous	16.1	1.6	17.7	24.4	57.9	100.0	..
Total age-standardised (15 years and over)	Indigenous	41.7	1.4	43.1	21.9	35.0	100.0	..
	Non-Indigenous	16.3	1.7	18.0	24.1	57.9	100.0	..
	Rate ratio <sup>(d)</sup>	2.6	0.8	2.4	0.9	0.6	1.0	..
Total (18 years and over)	Indigenous	45.7*	1.7	47.4*	21.1*	31.6*	100.0	..
	Non-Indigenous	16.7	1.7	18.4	25.4	56.1	100.0	..
Total age-standardised (18 years and over)	Indigenous	43.0	1.4	44.4	22.8	32.9	100.0	..
	Non-Indigenous	17.0	1.8	18.8	25.2	56.0	100.0	..
	Rate ratio <sup>(d)</sup>	2.5	0.8	2.4	0.9	0.6	1.0	..
<b>Persons</b>								
15–17 years	Indigenous	19.5*	2.6 <sup>(b)</sup>	22.1*	6.3	71.6*	100.0	36,164
	Non-Indigenous	6.1	0.6 <sup>(c)</sup>	6.7	3.5 <sup>(b)</sup>	89.9	100.0	820,373
18–24 years	Indigenous	49.7*	3.3	53.0*	12.0	35.1*	100.0	67,616
	Non-Indigenous	18.5	4.1	22.6	12.3	65.0	100.0	1,963,576
25–34 years	Indigenous	52.9*	2.9	55.8*	18.0*	26.1*	100.0	69,931
	Non-Indigenous	24.1	3.2	27.2	24.8	48.0	100.0	2,819,126

(continued)

Table 2.18.1 (continued): Smoker status (per cent), by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2008

		Current smoker			Ex-smoker	Never smoked	Total	Total number
		Daily	Other <sup>(a)</sup>	Total smokers				
35–44 years	Indigenous	51.1*	2.0	53.1*	20.6*	26.3*	100.0	63,851
	Non-Indigenous	22.8	2.0	24.8	26.8	48.5	100.0	2,987,518
45–54 years	Indigenous	46.9*	1.0 <sup>(b)</sup>	48.0*	28.9	23.2*	100.0	46,912
	Non-Indigenous	21.3	1.4	22.7	31.6	45.7	100.0	2,864,016
55+ years	Indigenous	31.6*	0.7 <sup>(b)</sup>	32.2*	34.8	32.9*	100.0	42,627
	Non-Indigenous	11.4	0.5 <sup>(b)</sup>	11.8	40.8	47.3	100.0	4,919,592
<b>Total (15 years and over)</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>44.6*</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>46.8*</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>33.5*</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>327,101</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>16,374,202</b>
<b>Total age-standardised (15 years and over)</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>
	<b>Rate ratio<sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Total (18 years and over)</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>47.7*</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>49.8*</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>28.8*</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Total age-standardised (18 years and over)</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>
	<b>Non-Indigenous</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>
	<b>Rate ratio<sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>..</b>

\* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) Comprises persons who smoked at least once a week, but not daily, and those who smoked less than weekly.

(b) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

(c) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

(d) The rate ratio is calculated by dividing the rate for Indigenous persons by the corresponding rate for non-Indigenous persons.

Source: ABS & AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS & 2007–08 NHS.

**Table 2.18.2: Rate ratios (Indigenous: non-Indigenous), current daily smokers, by age group, 2008**

	15-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Total (15+)	Total (18+)
Males	2.2	2.7	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.8	2.3	2.4
Females	5.0	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.8	2.7	2.7
Persons	3.2	2.7	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.8	2.5	2.6

Source: AIHW & ABS analyses of 2008 NATSISS AND 2007–08 NHS.

### Smoker status by state/territory

- In 2008, the proportion of Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over who were current smokers ranged from 38% in the Australian Capital Territory to 55% in the Northern Territory (Table 2.18.3a). The proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over who were current smokers ranged from 36% in the Australian Capital Territory to 53% in the Northern Territory (Table 2.18.3b).
- The proportion of Indigenous ex-smokers aged 18 years and over in 2008 ranged from 14% in the Northern Territory to 29% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.18.3a). The proportion of Indigenous ex-smokers aged 15 years and over in 2008 ranged from 13% in the Northern Territory to 26% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.18.3b).
- The proportion of Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over who reported that they had never smoked was lowest in New South Wales (25%) and highest in the Australian Capital Territory (34%) (Table 2.18.3a). The proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over who reported that they had never smoked was lowest in New South Wales (30%) and highest in the Australian Capital Territory (38%) (Table 2.18.3b).
- Indigenous Australians were between 2 and 2.5 times as likely to be current daily smokers when compared to non-Indigenous Australians in all states and territories (Table 2.18.4a; Table 2.18.4b).

**Table 2.18.3a: Smoker status, by state/territory, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, 2008**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Current smoker									
Daily	49.8	48.3	45.6	44.1	48.9	47.2	36.4	50.9	47.7
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	1.7 <sup>(b)</sup>	1.5 <sup>(b)</sup>	1.8 <sup>(b)</sup>	2.8	2.2 <sup>(b)</sup>	1.8 <sup>(b)</sup>	1.4 <sup>(c)</sup>	3.7	2.2
<i>Total smokers</i>	<i>51.6</i>	<i>49.8</i>	<i>47.4</i>	<i>46.9</i>	<i>51.1</i>	<i>49.0</i>	<i>37.8</i>	<i>54.6</i>	<i>49.8</i>
Ex-smoker	23.9	24.1	22.0	20.4	19.5	24.4	28.7	13.6	21.4
Never smoked	24.5	26.1	30.6	32.7	29.4	26.6	33.5	31.8	28.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total number</b>	<b>85,257</b>	<b>19,312</b>	<b>80,218</b>	<b>38,925</b>	<b>16,111</b>	<b>10,777</b>	<b>2,564</b>	<b>37,774</b>	<b>290,937</b>

(a) Comprises persons who smoked at least once a week, but not daily, and those who smoked less than weekly.

(b) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

(c) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

**Table 2.18.3b: Smoker status, by state/territory, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Current smoker									
Daily	46.5	46.2	42.2	41.3	45.5	42.7	34.9	48.6	44.6
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	1.7 <sup>(b)</sup>	1.5 <sup>(b)</sup>	1.8 <sup>(b)</sup>	2.9	2.5 <sup>(b)</sup>	1.8 <sup>(b)</sup>	1.3 <sup>(c)</sup>	4.1	2.2
<i>Total smokers</i>	<i>48.2</i>	<i>47.6</i>	<i>44.0</i>	<i>44.2</i>	<i>48.0</i>	<i>44.5</i>	<i>36.2</i>	<i>52.7</i>	<i>46.8</i>
Ex-smoker	21.9	21.8	20.2	18.6	18.3	23.0	26.2	12.9	19.7
Never smoked	29.9	30.6	35.8	37.2	33.7	32.5	37.7	34.3	33.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total number</b>	<b>96,367</b>	<b>21,938</b>	<b>90,587</b>	<b>43,826</b>	<b>17,948</b>	<b>12,351</b>	<b>2,810</b>	<b>41,274</b>	<b>327,101</b>

(a) Comprises persons who smoked at least once a week, but not daily, and those who smoked less than weekly.

(b) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

(c) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

**Table 2.18.4a: Current daily smokers, by state/territory and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008**

Current daily smokers	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Indigenous	49.8	48.3	45.6	44.1	48.9	47.2	36.4	50.9	47.7
Non-Indigenous	18.6	17.0	21.1	16.8	19.2	22.3	16.2	22.8	18.6
Rate ratio <sup>(a)</sup>	2.7	2.8	2.2	2.6	2.5	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.6

(a) The rate ratio is calculated by dividing the rate for Indigenous persons by the corresponding rate for non-Indigenous persons.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

**Table 2.18.4b: Current daily smokers, by state/territory and Indigenous status, persons aged 15 years and over, 2008**

Current daily smokers	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Indigenous	46.5	46.2	42.2	41.3	45.5	42.7	34.9	48.6	44.6
Non-Indigenous	17.8	16.6	20.5	16.1	18.7	21.4	15.7	22.2	18.0
Rate ratio <sup>(a)</sup>	2.6	2.8	2.1	2.6	2.4	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.5

(a) The rate ratio is calculated by dividing the rate for Indigenous persons by the corresponding rate for non-Indigenous persons.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS.

### Smoker status by remoteness

- In 2008, the proportion of Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over who were current smokers ranged from 45% in *Major cities* to 56% in the *Very remote* areas (Table 2.18.5a). The proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over who were current smokers ranged from 42% in *Major cities* to 55% in *Very remote* areas (Table 2.18.5b).
- For Indigenous persons 18 years and over, *Major cities* had the greatest proportion of ex-smokers (25%) and persons who had never smoked (31%). *Very remote* areas had the lowest proportion of ex-smokers (15%) and *Outer regional* areas had the lowest proportion of persons who had never smoked (26%) (Table 2.18.5a). For Indigenous persons 15 years and over, *Major cities* had the greatest proportion of persons who had never smoked (36%) and *Outer regional* areas had the lowest proportion of persons who had never smoked (30%) (Table 2.18.5b).

Table 2.18. 5a: Smoker status, by remoteness area and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008

		Current smoker			Ex-smoker	Never smoked	Total	Total number
		Daily	Other <sup>(a)</sup>	Total smokers				
<b>Major cities</b>	Indigenous	42.9*	1.8 <sup>(b)</sup>	44.7*	24.5*	30.8*	100.0	92,691.0
	Non-Indigenous	17.2	2.0	19.2	28.7	52.2	100.0	10,411,032.0
	Rate ratio <sup>(c)</sup>	2.5	0.9	2.3	0.9	0.6	1.0	..
<b>Inner regional</b>	Indigenous	48.6*	1.2 <sup>(b)</sup>	49.9*	21.9*	28.2*	100.0	58,208.0
	Non-Indigenous	19.6	1.8	21.3	32.8	45.9	100.0	3,424,218.0
	Rate ratio <sup>(c)</sup>	2.5	0.7	2.3	0.7	0.6	1.0	..
<b>Outer regional</b>	Indigenous	49.1*	2.4	51.6*	22*	26.4*	100.0	64,889.0
	Non-Indigenous	24.8	1.3 <sup>(b)</sup>	26.1	32.0	41.9	100.0	1,526,888.0
	Rate ratio <sup>(c)</sup>	2.0	1.9	2.0	0.7	0.6	1.0	..
<b>Total Non-remote</b>	Indigenous	46.3*	1.8	48.2*	23.1*	28.8*	100.0	215,788.0
	Non-Indigenous	18.5	1.9	20.3	29.9	49.8	100.0	15,362,137.0
	Rate ratio <sup>(c)</sup>	2.5	1.0	2.4	0.8	0.6	1.0	..
<b>Remote</b>	Indigenous	49.5*	2.4 <sup>(b)</sup>	51.9*	19.0*	29.1*	100.0	27,031.0
	Non-Indigenous	27.4	3.7 <sup>(b)</sup>	31.1	30.7	38.2	100.0	191,691.0
	Rate ratio <sup>(c)</sup>	1.8	0.6	1.7	0.6	0.8	1.0	..
<b>Very remote</b>	Indigenous	52.7*	3.5	56.2*	15.2*	28.6*	100.0	48,118.0
	Non-Indigenous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rate ratio <sup>(c)</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Australia</b>	Indigenous	47.7*	2.2	49.8*	21.4*	28.8*	100.0	290,937.0
	Non-Indigenous	18.6	1.9	20.5	29.9	49.6	100.0	15,553,828.0
	Rate ratio <sup>(c)</sup>	2.6	1.2	2.4	0.7	0.6	1.0	..

(continued)

**Table 2.18. 5a (continued): Smoker status, by remoteness area and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008**

\* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

- (a) Comprises persons who smoked at least once a week, but not daily, and those who smoked less than weekly.
- (b) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.
- (c) The rate ratio is calculated by dividing the rate for Indigenous persons by the corresponding rate for non-Indigenous persons.

Source: 2008 NATSISS, 2007–08 National Health Survey

Table 2.18. 5b: Smoker status, by remoteness area and Indigenous status, persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

		Current smoker			Ex-smoker	Never smoked	Total	Total number
		Daily	Other <sup>(a)</sup>	Total smokers				
<b>Major cities</b>	Indigenous	39.9*	1.7 <sup>(c)</sup>	41.6*	22.2	36.3*	100.0	105,217.0
	Non-Indigenous	16.7	1.9	18.6	27.5	54.0	100.0	10,941,587.0
	Rate ratio <sup>(b)</sup>	2.4	0.9	2.2	0.8	0.7	1.0	..
<b>Inner regional</b>	Indigenous	44.1*	1.3 <sup>(c)</sup>	45.4*	19.5	35.1*	100.0	67,416.0
	Non-Indigenous	18.8	1.7	20.5	31.0	48.5	100.0	3,637,010.0
	Rate ratio <sup>(b)</sup>	2.4	0.7	2.2	0.6	0.7	1.0	..
<b>Outer regional</b>	Indigenous	46.5*	2.2	48.7*	21.2	30.2*	100.0	72,967.0
	Non-Indigenous	23.8	1.3 <sup>(c)</sup>	25.1	30.7	44.2	100.0	1,600,168.0
	Rate ratio <sup>(b)</sup>	2.0	1.7	1.9	0.7	0.7	1.0	..
<b>Total Non-remote</b>	Indigenous	43.0*	1.7	44.7*	21.1*	34.1*	100.0	245,600.0
	Non-Indigenous	17.9	1.8	19.7	28.6	51.8	100.0	16,178,766.0
	Rate ratio <sup>(b)</sup>	2.4	1.0	2.3	0.7	0.7	1.0	..
<b>Remote</b>	Indigenous	47.0*	2.9 <sup>(c)</sup>	49.9*	17.4	32.8	100.0	29,839.0
	Non-Indigenous	26.8	3.7 <sup>(c)</sup>	30.5	30.1	39.4	100.0	195,436.0
	Rate ratio <sup>(b)</sup>	1.8	0.8	1.6	0.6	0.8	1.0	..
<b>Very remote</b>	Indigenous	50.5*	4.2	54.7*	14.4	30.9	100.0	51,662.0
	Non-Indigenous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rate ratio <sup>(b)</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Australia</b>	Indigenous	44.6*	2.2	46.8*	19.7*	33.5	100.0	327,101.0
	Non-Indigenous	18.0	1.8	19.8	28.6	51.6	100.0	16,374,202.0
	Rate ratio <sup>(b)</sup>	2.5	1.2	2.4	0.7	0.6	1.0	..

(continued)

**Table 2.18. 5b (continued): Smoker status, by remoteness area and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2008**

\* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

- (a) Comprises persons who smoked at least once a week, but not daily, and those who smoked less than weekly.
- (b) The rate ratio is calculated by dividing the rate for Indigenous persons by the corresponding rate for non-Indigenous persons.
- (c) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

Source: 2008 NATSISS, 2007–08 National Health Survey.

## Smoking status over time

- From 2002 to 2008, the percentage of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over who were current smokers increased from 33% to 45% and the proportion that had never smoked decreased from 49% to 31%. Over the same period, the proportion of ex-smokers increased from 2.3% to 24% (Table 2.18.6).
- From 1994-1995 to 2001-2002, the proportion of Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over in non-remote areas who were current smokers dropped from 55% to 52%. (Table 2.18.7).
- From 1994 to 2008, the proportion of Indigenous males aged 15 years and over who were smokers decreased from 55% to 49%. The percentage for females decreased from 49% to 45% (Table 2.18.8).
- Results from the 2002 and 2008 NATSISS surveys show that the proportion of Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over who were smokers declined from 51% to 47% (Table 2.18.8), this decline was statistical significant.
- Over the same period, the biggest decrease of any age-group was in the 15-17 year old group where the percentage of smokers dropped from 30% to 22% (Table 2.18.8).

**Table 2.18.6: Smoker status, by Indigenous status, persons aged 15 years and over, 1994, 2002, 2008**

	1994			2002			2008 <sup>(a)</sup>		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio <sup>(b)</sup>
	Per cent								
Current smoker	n.a	n.a	n.a	33.2	n.a	n.a	45.1	20.1	2.2
Daily	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	43.3	18.3	2.4
Other <sup>(c)</sup>	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	1.8	1.9	1.0
Occasional smoker	n.a	n.a	n.a	15.3	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Ex-smoker	n.a	n.a	n.a	2.3	n.a	n.a	23.7	28.2	0.8
Never smoked	n.a	n.a	n.a	48.6	n.a	n.a	31.3	51.7	0.6

(a) Data for 2008 are directly age-standardised.

(b) The rate ratio is calculated by dividing the rate for Indigenous persons by the corresponding rate for non-Indigenous persons.

(c) Comprises persons who smoked at least once a week, but not daily, and those who smoked less than weekly.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2002 NATSISS, 2008 NATSISS and 2007-08 NHS.

**Table 2.18.7: Smoker status, by Indigenous status<sup>(a)</sup>, persons aged 18 years and over in non-remote areas, 1994, 1995, 2001, 2002, 2008 and 2007-08**

	1994, 1995			2001, 2002			2008, 2007-08		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio <sup>(b)</sup>	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio <sup>(b)</sup>	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio <sup>(b)</sup>
	%	%		%	%		%	%	
Current smoker									
Daily <sup>(c)(d)</sup>	..	..	..	50.3	22.0	2.3	46.3	18.5	2.5
Other <sup>(e)</sup>	..	..	..	2.0	1.9	1.1	1.8	1.8	1.0
Total smokers <sup>(c)(d)(f)</sup>	54.6	23.4	2.3	52.3	23.9	2.2	48.2	20.3	2.4
Not a current smoker									
Ex-smoker <sup>(c)(d)</sup>	..	27.5	..	18.1	26.4	0.7	23.1	29.9	0.8
Never smoked <sup>(c)(d)</sup>	..	49.2	..	29.7	49.8	0.6	28.8	49.7	0.6
Total <sup>(c)(d)(f)</sup>	45.4	76.6	0.6	47.7	76.1	0.6	51.8	79.7	0.7
<b>Total<sup>(g)</sup></b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>..</b>

(a) Data for Indigenous persons are from the 1994, 2002 and 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Surveys. Data for non-Indigenous persons are from the 1995, 2001 and 2007-08 National Health Surveys.

(b) The rate ratio is calculated by dividing the rate for Indigenous persons by the corresponding rate for non-Indigenous persons.

(c) Difference between 2002 Indigenous rate and 2001 non-Indigenous rate is statistically significant.

(d) Difference between 2008 Indigenous rate and 2007-08 non-Indigenous rate is statistically significant.

(e) Comprises persons who smoked at least once a week, but not daily, and those who smoked less than weekly.

(f) Difference between 1994 Indigenous rate and 1995 non-Indigenous rate is statistically significant.

(g) Excludes persons for whom smoker status was not known.

Source: AIHW analysis of 1994 NATSIS and 2002, 2008 NATSISS, 1995, 2001 and 2007-08 NHS.

**Table 2.18.8: Proportion of smokers<sup>(a)</sup>, by sex, age, remoteness area and state/territory, 1994, 2002 and 2008, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over**

	Indigenous		
	1994	2002	2008
<b>Sex</b>			
Males <sup>(b)(c)</sup>	55.3	53.1	48.8
Females <sup>(c)</sup>	48.5	49.5	44.9
Persons <sup>(b)(c)</sup>	51.8	51.2	46.8
<b>Age</b>			
15–17 <sup>(b)(c)</sup>	29.6	32.8	22.1
18–24	55.5	57.6	53.0
25–34 <sup>(b)</sup>	62.8	57.7	55.8
35–44	56.5	57.6	53.1
45–54	49.1	49.2	48.0
55+	32.5	35.4	32.2
<b>Remoteness Area</b>			
Major cities <sup>(b)</sup>	51.9	47.7	41.6
Inner regional <sup>(b)(c)</sup>	52.7	52.0	45.4
Outer regional	49.9	51.2	48.7
<i>Total non-remote</i> <sup>(b)(c)</sup>	<i>51.4</i>	<i>50.0</i>	<i>44.7</i>
Remote	54.3	52.7	49.9
Very remote	51.9	55.6	54.7
<i>Total remote</i>	<i>52.6</i>	<i>54.7</i>	<i>52.9</i>
<b>State/Territory</b>			
NSW	52.6	52.9	48.2
Vic <sup>(b)(c)</sup>	58.6	53.9	47.6
Qld <sup>(b)(c)</sup>	50.4	50.5	44.0
WA <sup>(b)</sup>	50.7	47.9	44.2
SA <sup>(b)</sup>	57.7	48.1	48.0
Tas	48.9	44.0	44.5
ACT	43.1 <sup>(d)</sup>	44.7	36.2
NT	49.9	55.5	52.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>51.8</b>	<b>51.2</b>	<b>46.8</b>
<b>Total number</b>	<b>110,990</b>	<b>143,593</b>	<b>153,003</b>

(a) Comprises current daily smokers and persons who smoked less than daily.

(b) Difference between 1994 and 2008 is statistically significant.

(c) Difference between 2002 and 2008 is statistically significant.

(d) Estimate has a relative standard error between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of the 2008, 2002 NATSISS, and 1994 NATSIS.

## Smoker status by population characteristics

- In 2008, Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over were more likely to report being a current smoker if they were in the lowest (1st) household income fifth than if they were in the highest (57% compared with 37%); were in the most disadvantaged (socio-economic index for areas) quintile (1st) than if they were in the least disadvantaged (56% compared with 32%); and if they were unemployed than if they were employed (68% compared with 45%) (Table 2.18.9a).
- Indigenous Australians were more likely to report being a current smoker if they did not have a non-school qualification than if they did (53% compared with 44%) or if the highest year of schooling completed was Year 9 or below than if they completed Year 12 (57% compared with 36%) (Table 2.18.9a).
- Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over were more likely to report being a current smoker if they reported high/very high levels of psychological distress than if they had low levels of distress (59% compared with 46%); and if they drank at risky/high-risk levels than if they did not (66% compared with 46%) (Table 2.18.9a).
- Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over were more likely to report being a current smoker if they reported high/very high levels of psychological distress than if they had low levels of distress (57% compared with 43%); and if they drank at risky/high-risk levels than if they did not (66% compared with 42%) (Table 2.18.9b)
- Compared to Indigenous Australians who never smoked and were ex-smokers, a higher proportion Indigenous Australians both aged 15 years or 18 years and over who were current daily smokers were in the lowest quintile of household income and SEIFA disadvantage, did not have a non-school qualification, were currently renting; and had experienced stressors in the last 12 months (Table 2.18.9c, Table 2.18.9d).

Table 2.18.9a: Proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over, by smoking status and selected population characteristics, 2008

	Current smoker	Ex-smoker	Never smoked	Total
	Per cent			
<b>Household income</b>				
1st quintile (lowest)	57.2	19.5	23.3	100.0
5th quintile (highest)	37.1	24.8	38.1	100.0
<b>SEIFA</b>				
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	56.2	17.7	26.1	100.0
5th quintile (least disadvantaged)	31.8	31.4	36.9	100.0
<b>Employment</b>				
Employed	44.8	22.3	32.9	100.0
Unemployed	68.1	11.7	20.2	100.0
Not in the labour force	52.5	22.7	24.9	100.0
<b>Has non-school qualification</b>				
Yes	43.7	24.8	31.5	100.0
No	53.2	19.5	27.3	100.0
<b>Highest year of school completed</b>				
Year 12	36.0	18.8	45.3	100.0
Year 9 or below	56.5	22.6	20.8	100.0
<b>Housing</b>				
Owner	34.0	29.0	37.0	100.0
Renter	56.7	18.0	25.3	100.0
<b>Self-assessed health status</b>				
Excellent/very good	45.3	21.0	33.7	100.0
Good	52.7	20.5	26.8	100.0
Fair/poor	53.5	23.3	23.1	100.0
<b>Psychological distress (Kessler 5)</b>				
Low/moderate	45.8	23.2	31.0	100.0
High/very high	59.0	18.3	22.7	100.0
<b>Stressors experienced in last 12 months</b>				
Really bad illness	49.9	24.5	25.6	100.0
<i>Total experienced stressors</i>	53.5	20.1	26.4	100.0
No stressors	44.5	23.3	32.2	100.0
<b>Risky/high risk alcohol consumption</b>				
Yes	66.4	18.5	15.2	100.0
No	45.6	22.2	32.2	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total persons aged 18 years and over</b>	<b>145,004</b>	<b>62,239</b>	<b>83,695</b>	<b>290,937</b>

Note: Proportions exclude not known and not stated responses.

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.18.9b: Proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, by smoking status and selected population characteristics, 2008

	Current smoker	Ex-smoker	Never smoked	Total
	Per cent			
<b>Household income</b>				
1st quintile (lowest)	53.4	17.6	29.0	100.0
5th quintile (highest)	35.8	23.5	40.7	100.0
<b>SEIFA</b>				
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	53.6	16.4	30.0	100.0
5th quintile (least disadvantaged)	28.3	28.3	43.4	100.0
<b>Employment</b>				
Employed	43.1	21.1	35.7	100.0
Unemployed	62.5	10.8	26.7	100.0
Not in the labour force	47.5	20.2	32.3	100.0
<b>Has non-school qualification</b>				
Yes	43.3	24.5	32.2	100.0
No	48.4	17.5	34.1	100.0
<b>Highest year of school completed</b>				
Year 12	35.9	18.4	45.7	100.0
Year 9 or below	51.0	20.3	28.7	100.0
<b>Housing</b>				
Owner	31.3	26.1	42.6	100.0
Renter	53.7	16.7	29.6	100.0
<b>Self-assessed health status</b>				
Excellent/very good	41.2	18.5	40.3	100.0
Good	49.7	19.2	31.0	100.0
Fair/poor	53.3	22.9	23.9	100.0
<b>Psychological distress (Kessler 5)</b>				
Low/moderate	42.5	21.0	36.5	100.0
High/very high	56.9	17.6	25.5	100.0
<b>Stressors experienced in last 12 months</b>				
Really bad illness	47.9	23.6	28.6	100.0
<i>Total experienced stressors</i>	<i>51.7</i>	<i>19.1</i>	<i>29.2</i>	<i>100.0</i>
No stressors	40.1	20.6	39.3	100.0
<b>Risky/high risk alcohol consumption</b>				
Yes	66.4	18.2	15.3	100.0
No	42.3	20.1	37.6	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>46.8</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total persons aged 18 years and over</b>	<b>153,003</b>	<b>64,505</b>	<b>109,594</b>	<b>327,101</b>

Note: Proportions exclude not known and not stated responses.

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.18.9c: Proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over, by smoking status and selected population characteristics, 2008

	Current smoker	Ex-smoker	Never smoked
	Per cent		
<b>Household income</b>			
1st quintile (lowest)	53.2	41.5	37.2
5th quintile (highest)	7.9	12.2	14.0
<b>SEIFA</b>			
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	60.3	44.3	48.5
5th quintile (least disadvantaged)	2.5	5.8	5.1
<b>Employment</b>			
Employed	48.5	56.1	61.8
Unemployed	13.1	5.3	6.7
Not in the labour force	38.3	38.6	31.5
<b>Has non-school qualification</b>			
Yes	31.1	41.1	38.8
No	68.9	58.9	61.2
<b>Highest year of school completed</b>			
Year 12	16.3	19.8	35.4
Year 9 or below	38.3	35.7	24.4
<b>Housing</b>			
Owner	19.9	39.5	37.5
Renter	78.8	58.3	60.7
<b>Self-assessed health status</b>			
Excellent/very good	37.5	40.5	48.4
Good	36.3	33.0	32.0
Fair/poor	26.2	26.5	19.6
<b>Psychological distress (Kessler 5)</b>			
Low/moderate	62.0	72.8	74.2
High/very high	38.0	27.2	25.8
<b>Stressors experienced in last 12 months</b>			
Really bad illness	13.4	15.4	12.0
<i>Total experienced stressors</i>	63.7	55.7	54.4
No stressors	36.3	44.3	45.6
<b>Risky/high risk alcohol consumption</b>			
Yes	25.6	16.4	10.0
No	74.4	83.6	90.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total persons aged 18 years and over</b>	<b>145,004</b>	<b>62,239</b>	<b>83,695</b>

Note: Proportions exclude not known and not stated responses.

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.18.9d: Proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 15 years and over, by smoking status and selected population characteristics, 2008

	Current smoker	Ex-smoker	Never smoked
	Per cent		
<b>Household income</b>			
1st quintile (lowest)	54.1	41.6	40.4
5th quintile (highest)	7.7	11.7	12.0
<b>SEIFA</b>			
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	60.8	44.2	47.4
5th quintile (least disadvantaged)	2.4	5.6	5.1
<b>Employment</b>			
Employed	47.7	55.3	55.2
Unemployed	13.6	5.6	8.1
Not in the labour force	38.7	39.1	36.7
<b>Has non-school qualification</b>			
Yes	29.9	40.0	31.0
No	70.1	60.0	69.0
<b>Highest year of school completed</b>			
Year 12	15.6	19.1	27.8
Year 9 or below	38.6	36.5	30.3
<b>Housing</b>			
Owner	19.7	39.0	37.5
Renter	79.1	58.5	60.8
<b>Self-assessed health status</b>			
Excellent/very good	38.5	41.0	52.6
Good	36.2	33.2	31.5
Fair/poor	25.3	25.8	15.8
<b>Psychological distress (Kessler 5)</b>			
Low/moderate	62.2	72.5	76.0
High/very high	37.8	27.5	24.0
<b>Stressors experienced in last 12 months</b>			
Really bad illness	12.9	15.1	10.8
Total experienced stressors	63.6	55.6	50.2
No stressors	36.4	44.4	49.8
<b>Risky/high risk alcohol consumption</b>			
Yes	24.9	16.1	7.9
No	75.1	83.9	92.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total persons aged 18 years and over</b>	<b>153,003</b>	<b>64,505</b>	<b>109,594</b>

Note: Proportions exclude not known and not stated responses.

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

## **NATSIHS data**

Smoking prevalence data presented below are from the 2004–05 NATSIHS, with non-Indigenous comparisons from the 2004–05 National Health Survey.

- In 2004–05, approximately 46% of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over reported they were current daily smokers compared with 21% of non-Indigenous Australians. Around 24% of Indigenous adults were ex-smokers compared with 30% of non-Indigenous adults (Table 2.18.10).

### **Smoking status by age group and sex**

- A higher proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous males were current daily smokers (48% and 24% respectively) compared with Indigenous and non-Indigenous females (45% and 18% respectively) (Table 2.18.10).
- Indigenous adults aged 25–34 and 35–44 years were most likely to report being current daily smokers (both 55%). The lowest proportion of Indigenous adults who were current daily smokers were aged 55 years and over (30%) (Table 2.18.10).

Table 2.18.10: Smoker status, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2004–05

Smoker status	18-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55+		Total		Total (age-standardised) <sup>(a)</sup>		Ratio
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.											
<b>Per cent</b>															
<b>Males</b>															
Current smoker	53	33	57	32	59	31	52	27	36	15	53	26	50	26	1.9
Daily	50	29	56	29	57	29	50	25	35	14	51	24	48	24	2.0
Other	3 <sup>(c)</sup>	4	1 <sup>(c)</sup>	3	2 <sup>(c)</sup>	2	2 <sup>(c)</sup>	2	1 <sup>(d)</sup>	1 <sup>(c)</sup>	2	2	2	2	1.0
Ex-smoker	13	13	15	24	15	28	30	37	43	55	20	35	26	35	0.7
Never smoked	34	54	28	43	25	41	19	36	21	30	26	39	24	39	0.6
<b>Total number<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>26,714</b>	<b>939,483</b>	<b>32,574</b>	<b>1,368,120</b>	<b>27,186</b>	<b>1,439,208</b>	<b>18,812</b>	<b>1,340,599</b>	<b>15,193</b>	<b>2,170,272</b>	<b>139,595</b>	<b>7,666,352</b>	<b>139,595</b>	<b>7,666,352</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Females</b>															
Current smoker	52	25	55	26	59	25	52	21	27	10	51	20	47	20	2.3
Daily	51	23	54	23	54	23	51	20	26	9	49	18	45	18	2.4
Other	1 <sup>(c)</sup>	2 <sup>(c)</sup>	1 <sup>(c)</sup>	3	5 <sup>(c)</sup>	2	1 <sup>(d)</sup>	1 <sup>(c)</sup>	1 <sup>(c)</sup>	1	2 <sup>(c)</sup>	2	2 <sup>(c)</sup>	2	1.0
Ex-smoker	12	14	18	24	19	25	19	29	33	29	19	25	22	25	0.9
Never smoked	36	62	27	50	22	50	29	50	40	62	30	55	31	55	0.6
<b>Total number<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>30,009</b>	<b>917,595</b>	<b>37,198</b>	<b>1,393,234</b>	<b>31,871</b>	<b>1,460,358</b>	<b>20,766</b>	<b>1,364,981</b>	<b>17,974</b>	<b>2,359,406</b>	<b>154,046</b>	<b>7,866,025</b>	<b>154,046</b>	<b>7,866,025</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Persons</b>															
Current smoker	52	29	56	29	59	28	51	23	31	13	51	23	48	23	2.1
Daily	50	26	55	26	55	26	50	22	30	12	49	21	46	21	2.2
Other	2 <sup>(c)</sup>	3	1	3	4 <sup>(c)</sup>	2	1 <sup>(c)</sup>	2	1 <sup>(c)</sup>	1	2 <sup>(c)</sup>	2	2	2	1.0
Ex-smoker	12	13	16	24	17	27	24	33	37	41	19	30	24	30	0.8
Never smoked	35	58	28	47	24	45	24	43	32	46	30	47	28	47	0.6
<b>Total number<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>56,723</b>	<b>1,857,078</b>	<b>69,772</b>	<b>2,761,354</b>	<b>59,057</b>	<b>2,899,566</b>	<b>39,578</b>	<b>2,705,580</b>	<b>33,167</b>	<b>4,529,678</b>	<b>293,641</b>	<b>15,532,377</b>	<b>293,641</b>	<b>15,532,377</b>	<b>..</b>

(continued)

**Table 2.18.10 (continued): Smoker status, by Indigenous status, sex and age group, 2004-05**

- (a) Directly age-standardised proportions.
- (b) Includes smoker status not known.
- (c) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.
- (d) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

*Source:* ABS 2006.

## Smoking status by state/territory

- In 2004–05, the proportion of Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over who were current smokers ranged from 44% in the Australian Capital Territory to 56% in South Australia and the Northern Territory (Table 2.18.11).
- The proportion of Indigenous ex-smokers in 2004–05 ranged from 14% in the Northern Territory to 25% in ACT (Table 2.18.11).
- The proportion of Indigenous adults who reported that they had never smoked was similar across most states and territories (Table 2.18.11).

**Table 2.18.11: Smoker status, by state/territory, Indigenous persons aged 18 years and over, 2004–05**

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
	Per cent								
Current smoker	53	52	51	48	56	51	44	56	52
Daily	51	50	50	44	53	50	41	54	50
Other	2 <sup>(a)</sup>	2 <sup>(a)</sup>	1 <sup>(a)</sup>	4 <sup>(a)</sup>	3 <sup>(a)</sup>	1 <sup>(a)</sup>	3 <sup>(b)</sup>	2	2
Ex-smoker	20	24	20	22	17	22	25	14	20
Never smoked	27	24	29	30	27	27	31	30	28
<b>Total<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>						
<b>Total number</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>16,500</b>	<b>70,600</b>	<b>36,500</b>	<b>14,500</b>	<b>9,500</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>33,400</b>	<b>258,300</b>

(a) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

(b) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

(c) Includes smoker status not known.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

## Smoking status by remoteness

Table 2.18.12 presents the smoking status of Indigenous and non-Indigenous adults by remoteness area for 2004–05.

- The proportion of Indigenous adults who reported they were current smokers was similar across all remoteness areas (Table 2.18.12).
- The rate ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous current smokers was higher in *Major cities* (2.1) than in *Remote* areas of Australia (1.4). This is because, although the proportion of Indigenous adults who smoked was similar, the proportion of non-Indigenous Australians who reported they were current smokers was higher in Remote areas (34%) than in Major Cities (22%) (Table 2.18.12).

Table 2.18.12: Smoker status, by remoteness area and Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2004–05

Smoker status	Major cities			Inner regional			Outer regional			Remote			Very remote <sup>(a)</sup>			Australia		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%	
Current smoker	46	22	2.1*	47	26	1.8*	50	27	1.9*	47	34	1.4*	51	n.a.	—	48	23	2.1*
Daily	45	20	2.3*	46	24	1.9*	48	25	1.9*	45	32	1.4*	48	n.a.	—	46	21	2.2*
Other	2 <sup>(b)</sup>	2	0.9	1 <sup>(c)</sup>	2	0.6	2 <sup>(c)</sup>	2	1.0	2 <sup>(c)</sup>	2 <sup>(c)</sup>	1.4	3 <sup>(c)</sup>	n.a.	—	2	2	1.0
Ex-smoker	27	30	0.9	25	31	0.8*	22	31	0.7*	25	27	0.9	18	n.a.	—	24	30	0.8*
Never smoked	26	49	0.5*	28	44	0.6*	29	42	0.7*	28	40	0.7*	31	n.a.	—	28	47	0.6*
<b>Total<sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>..</b>

\* Represents statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/ non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) The National Health Survey did not collect data in Very Remote Australia.

(b) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

(c) Estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

(d) Includes smoker status not known.

Note: Data are directly age-standardised.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

## Smoking status over time

- The proportion of Indigenous adults who reported they were current smokers was similar in 2001 and 2004–05 (51% and 48%) (Table 2.18.13).
- The rate ratios of Indigenous to non-Indigenous smokers, ex-smokers and non-smokers were also similar in 2001 and 2004–05 (Table 2.18.13).
- Data on the smoking status of Indigenous Australians were collected in the 1995 National Health Survey, but they are available for non-remote areas only. The proportion of Indigenous adults in non-remote areas who reported they were current daily smokers was similar in 1995, 2001 and 2004–05 (50%, 48% and 49% respectively) (ABS 2006).

**Table 2.18.13: Smoker status, by Indigenous status, persons aged 18 years and over, 2001 and 2004–05**

	2001			2004–05		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Rate ratio
	Per cent					
Current smoker	51	24	2.1*	48	23	2.1*
Daily	49	22	2.2*	46	21	2.2*
Other	2 <sup>(a)</sup>	2	1.2	2	2	1.0
Ex-smoker	21	26	0.8*	24	30	0.8*
Never smoked	28	50	0.6*	28	47	0.6*
Not known	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>..</b>

\* Represents statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

Note: Data are directly age-standardised.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2001 NHS (Indigenous supplement), 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

## Smoking status by selected population and health characteristics

- In 2004–05, Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over were more likely to report being a current smoker if they were in the lowest (1st) household income quintile than if they were in the highest (55% compared with 32%); were in the most disadvantaged SEIFA (socio-economic index for areas) quintile (1st) than if they were in the least disadvantaged (52% compared with 25%); and if they were unemployed than if they were employed (76% compared with 42%). Similar trends were reported for non-Indigenous Australians (Table 2.18.14).
- Indigenous Australians were more likely to report being a current smoker if they did not have a non-school qualification than if they did (52% compared with 41%) or if the highest year of schooling completed was Year 9 or below than if they completed Year 12 (58% compared with 29%) (Table 2.18.14).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over with a self-assessed health status of fair/poor reported being a current smoker than those with a self-assessed health status of excellent/very good (57% compared with 40%). Indigenous Australians were slightly more likely to report being an ex-smoker if they had diabetes than if they did not (27% compared with 22%) and if they had cancer than if they did not (29% compared with 24%). A higher proportion of Indigenous Australians without cancer reported they had never smoked (28%) than those with cancer (21%) (Table 2.18.14).
- Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over were more likely to report being a current smoker if they drank at short- or long-term risky/high-risk levels than if they did not (long-term 66% compared with 45%, short-term 67% compared with 49%) (Table 2.18.14).
- Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over were more likely to report being a current smoker if they reported their exercise level as low/sedentary rather than high (49% compared with 32%); if they reported not eating fruit daily (65%) compared with those who did (46%); if they reported not eating vegetables daily (56%) compared with those who did (48%); and if they were normal or underweight rather than if they were overweight or obese (57% compared with 43%) (Table 2.18.14).

**Table 2.18.14: Proportion<sup>(a)</sup> of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over, by smoking status and selected population characteristics, 2004–05**

	Indigenous Australians			Non-Indigenous Australians		
	Current smoker	Ex-smoker	Never smoked	Current smoker	Ex-smoker	Never smoked
<b>Household income</b>						
1st quintile (lowest)	55.3*	22.4*	22.3*	32.4*	26.0*	41.7*
5th quintile (highest)	31.7*	26.4	41.9*	18.3*	31.6	50.1*
<b>SEIFA (Socio-economic Indexes for Areas)</b>						
1st quintile (most disadvantaged)	52.3*	21.2*	26.5*	31.4*	28.2*	40.4*
5th quintile (least disadvantaged)	24.7*	34.8 <sup>(b)</sup>	40.6*	15.7*	32.0	52.3*
<b>Employment</b>						
Employed	41.5*	25.9	32.6*	23.0*	30.1	46.8*
Unemployed	75.9*	14.1*	10.0*	41.5*	23.7*	34.8*
Not in the labour force	53.7*	21.9*	24.3*	26.0*	27.8*	46.2*
<b>Has non-school qualification</b>						
Yes	40.7*	26.5	32.7*	19.6*	31.8	48.7*
No	52.1*	22.2	25.7*	28.5*	28.0	43.5*
<b>Highest year of school completed</b>						
Year 12	28.6*	28.7	42.7*	17.0*	30.1	52.9*
Year 9 or below	57.9*	21.0*	21.1*	37.5*	26.2*	36.3*
<b>Housing</b>						
Owner	37.4	23.4	39.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Renter	57.4	18.4	24.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
<b>Self-assessed health status</b>						
Excellent/very good	40.4*	25.0	34.6*	18.9*	30.1	51.0*
Good	49.7*	22.1*	28.2*	27.1*	28.9*	44.0*
Fair/poor	56.8*	22.5*	20.7*	35.3*	27.4*	37.2*
<b>Number of long-term health conditions</b>						
None	52.1*	18.8	29.1*	28.8*	18.3	52.8*
One	54.8*	14.9*	30.2*	24.2*	26.1*	49.7*
Two	44.4*	23.0	32.7*	20.8*	27.5	51.6*
Three or more	48.9*	25.6*	25.4*	25.6*	31.7*	42.7*
<b>Circulatory problems</b>						
Yes	50.8*	23.5*	25.7*	22.2*	31.1*	46.6*
No	47.4*	23.6*	29.0*	24.1*	28.7*	47.2*
<b>Has diabetes</b>						
Yes	45.4*	26.7	27.9*	21.1*	31.4	47.5*
No	49.9*	22.2*	28.0*	23.2*	29.6*	47.2*

(continued)

**Table 2.18.14 (continued): Proportion<sup>(a)</sup> of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians aged 18 years and over, by smoking status and selected population characteristics, 2004–05**

	Indigenous Australians			Non-Indigenous Australians		
	Current smoker	Ex-smoker	Never smoked	Current smoker	Ex-smoker	Never smoked
<b>Has cancer</b>						
Yes	49.5*	29.1 <sup>(c)</sup>	21.4*	29.1*	35.1	35.8*
No	48.1*	23.5*	28.4*	23.0*	29.7*	47.3*
<b>Has respiratory problems</b>						
Yes	47.5*	24.3*	28.1*	22.6*	31.0*	46.4*
No	48.7*	23.2*	28.2*	23.3*	29.3*	47.3*
<b>Stressors in last 12 months</b>						
Serious illness or disability	50.9	20.3	28.8	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total experienced stressors	53.7	19.7	26.6	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
No stressors	46.5	20.3	33.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
<b>Long-term risky/high-risk alcohol consumption</b>						
Yes	65.8*	16.6 <sup>(b)*</sup>	17.5*	36.9*	35.5*	27.6*
No	44.8*	25.0*	30.2*	20.9*	29.0*	50.1*
<b>Short-term risky/high-risk alcohol consumption</b>						
Yes	67.2*	16.4*	16.3	43.9*	34.8*	21.3
No	48.6*	24.6*	26.8*	22.2*	31.8*	46.1*
<b>Physical activity<sup>(c)</sup></b>						
Low/sedentary	49.3*	24.0	26.7*	24.7*	28.6	46.7*
Moderate	42.9*	32.1	25.1*	20.0*	33.2	46.7*
High	31.7*	19.1 <sup>(b)</sup>	49.1	14.6*	33.5	51.9
<b>Eats fruit daily</b>						
Yes	45.7*	24.7*	29.6*	21.4*	30.3*	48.3*
No	64.7*	16.0*	19.3*	48.0*	23.3*	28.7*
<b>Eats vegetables daily</b>						
Yes	47.7*	23.8*	28.5*	22.9*	29.9*	47.2*
No	55.7*	20.5	23.8*	43.0*	28.2	28.9*
<b>Overweight/obesity</b>						
Yes	43.0*	26.2*	30.8*	22.9*	32.2*	44.8*
No	57.0*	19.9*	23.0*	23.4*	27.4*	49.2*
<b>Total (age-standardised)</b>	<b>48.1*</b>	<b>23.7*</b>	<b>28.2*</b>	<b>23.1*</b>	<b>29.9*</b>	<b>47.1*</b>
<b>Total (crude)</b>	<b>52.1*</b>	<b>19.7*</b>	<b>28.3*</b>	<b>22.8*</b>	<b>30.1*</b>	<b>47.1*</b>
<b>Total number persons aged 18 years and over</b>	<b>134,537</b>	<b>50,748</b>	<b>72,964</b>	<b>3,365,115</b>	<b>4,444,458</b>	<b>6,943,683</b>

\* Represents statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) Proportions are age-standardised except for data for housing tenure and stressors experienced in the previous 12 months for which crude proportions are presented, because data for non-Indigenous Australians are not available.

(b) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

(c) Non-remote areas only.

Source: AIHW analysis of 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey.

## **Data quality issues**

### **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS)**

The NATSIHS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSIHS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. It therefore overcomes the problem inherent in most national surveys with small and unrepresentative Indigenous samples. As with other surveys, the NATSIHS is subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Calculations of standard errors and significance testing help to identify the accuracy of the estimates and differences.

Information recorded in this survey is essentially 'as reported' by respondents. The ABS makes every effort to collect accurate information from respondents, particularly through careful questionnaire design, pre-testing of questionnaires, use of trained interviewers and assistance from Indigenous facilitators. Nevertheless, imperfect recall or individual interpretation of survey questions may affect some responses.

Non-Indigenous comparisons are available through the National Health Survey (NHS). The NHS was conducted in *Major cities, Inner and Outer regional areas, and Remote areas*, but *Very remote areas* were excluded from the sample. Time series comparisons are available through the 1995 and 2001 National Health Survey.

In remote communities there were some modifications to the NATSIHS content in order to accommodate language and cultural appropriateness in traditional communities and help respondents understand the concepts. Some questions were excluded and some reworded. Also, paper forms were used in communities in remote areas and computer-assisted interview (CAI) instruments were used in non-remote areas. The CAI process included built-in edit checks and sequencing.

Further information on NATSIHS data quality issues can be found in the NATSIHS 2004-05 publication (ABS 2006).

### **Smoking data**

The survey included smoking status, starting age of tobacco use, Indigenous status, age and sex. The NATSIHS has a large Indigenous sample size resulting in reliable estimates.

The question on smoking is asked of persons aged 18 years and over. Since most Australians start smoking before the age of 18, this limits our understanding of teenage smoking patterns. Teenagers are one of the main groups that smoking prevention programs focus on.

### **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)**

The NATSISS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2008 sample was 13,300 persons in 6,900 households, with a response rate of 82 per cent of households. Up to three randomly selected Indigenous people were chosen from selected households to participate in the survey. Trained ABS interviewers conducted the survey using face-to-face interviews. In non-remote areas interviewers used a notebook computer to record responses, while in remote areas a paper questionnaire was used. Interviewers obtained the consent of a parent or guardian before interviewing those aged 15 to 17 years. Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities were excluded.

The NATSISS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSISS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

As with other surveys, the NATSISS is subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.

Care has been taken to ensure that the results of this survey are as accurate as possible. Trained ABS officers conducted all interviews. However, some factors may affect the reliability of the data.

Information recorded in this survey is 'as reported' by respondents, and therefore may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodologies.

Data on health related indicators have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population.

Time series comparisons for the 2008 survey are available through the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and the 2002 NATSISS. However not all data elements align across the three (1994, 2001 and 2008) NATSISS surveys, hence care is required when reviewing results across the three surveys. There are no strictly comparable non-Indigenous results available for the 2008 NATSISS as the latest General Social Survey (which has been used in the past to compare with Indigenous results from the NATSISS) was run in 2006, with the next being run in 2010-11. Data from other ABS surveys run in 2008 may however be used to obtain rough non-Indigenous comparisons for some data items. Where possible ABS has provided recommendations for non-Indigenous data comparisons and these have been adopted in this report.

There was a relatively large level of under-coverage and caution should be exercised when interpreting the survey results. The under-identification of Indigenous persons in non-community areas is estimated to be up to 31% of those screened. This estimate is the remaining level of undercoverage when all other known sources of undercoverage have been removed. Part of this percentage is likely to be due to other factors which are unknown. (ABS 2010).

Further information on NATSISS data quality issues can be found in the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: users' guide, 2008* (ABS 2010).

## List of symbols used in tables

- n.a. not available
- rounded to zero (including null cells)
- 0 zero
- .. not applicable
- n.e.c. not elsewhere classified
- n.f.d. not further defined
- n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

## References

ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 2006. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey 2004-05. ABS cat.no. 4715.0. Canberra: ABS.

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