

Notes on data included on www.smokingtrendsuk.info

This document summarises the data presented on www.smokingtrendsuk.info, including the key characteristics of each survey and their definitions of indicators of smoking and vaping behaviour.

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Summary of data included on www.smokingtrendsuk.info

Source	Coverage	Age group	Date range	Frequency	INDICATOR				
					Smoking prevalence	Consumption	Quit attempts	Quit success	Vaping prevalence
Annual Population Survey	UK	Adults (18+)	2010-2018	Annual	✓				
Smoking Toolkit Study	England	Adults (16+)	2006-2020	Monthly	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Health Survey for England	England	Adults (16+)	2005-2017	Annual	✓	✓			✓ (since 2013)
Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among Young People in England	England	11-15	1998-2018	Annual (biennial since 2014)	✓				✓ (since 2014)
Welsh Health Survey	Wales	Adults (16+)	2003-2015	Annual	✓		✓ (in last year)		
National Survey for Wales	Wales	Adults (16+)	2016/17 - 2019/20	Annual	✓				✓
Scottish Health Survey	Scotland	Adults (16+)	2008-2018	Annual	✓	✓			✓ (since 2014)
Health Survey Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland	Adults (16+)	2010/11 - 2018/19	Annual	✓				✓ (since 2014/15)
Stop Smoking Services	England	n/a	2000/01 - 2019/20	Annual			✓	✓	

Annual Population Survey - Notes

Current cigarette smoker variable:

For those 18 years and above. Includes only ordinary tobacco which is smoked. Excludes any reference to snuff, tobacco or tobacco products that are chewed or sucked or herbal tobaccos. Excludes e-cigarettes.

This includes both occasional and regular smokers.

Ethnicity variable:

Other category includes respondents in Northern Ireland identifying themselves as 'Irish Traveller' and respondents in all UK countries identifying themselves as 'Arab'.

Asian includes Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese and any other Asian background.

White includes respondents in England, Wales and Scotland identifying themselves as 'White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller' and respondents in Scotland identifying themselves as 'White - Polish'.

SES variable:

SES was based on the National Statistics Socio-economic classification (NS-SEC). NSECMJ10 'NS-SEC major group (Standard Occupational Classification 2010 (SOC2010) based)'. For those aged 16 years and above.

For the 'Never worked, unemployed, and nec' category, nec means not elsewhere classified.

Regions in England (GOVTOF variable):

Government Office Regions. Applies to all respondents. Merseyside is generally included in the North West region in published data.

Weighting:

Frequency weights are applied for all the survey years in order to allow the sample to provide estimates relating to the total population and to minimise non-response bias.

More information:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/methodologies/annualpopulationsurveyapsqmi>

<https://beta.ukdataservice.ac.uk/datacatalogue/series/series?id=200002>

Opinions and Lifestyle Survey - Notes

The Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (OPN) is an omnibus survey that is conducted eight months of the year (two months collection, one month no collection). The sample size for the OPN is 2,010 individuals per month, with an average response rate of 55% (approximately 1,100 completed interviews per month). The geographic coverage is Great Britain.

Data are weighted from 2000 onwards. Data on cigarette use were collected on a 2-year basis prior to 2000. Estimates prior to 2005 are based on fiscal year as opposed to calendar year.

Cigarette smoking prevalence:

This refers to the proportion of individuals that currently smoke cigarettes.

Self-reported quit:

This represents the proportion of all those who said that they have smoked cigarettes regularly, who do not currently smoke.

Vaping prevalence:

This refers to the proportion of individuals who were currently vaping.

More information:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandlifeexpectancies/methodologies/opinionsandlifestylesurveyqmi>

Smoking Toolkit Study - Notes

The STS involves monthly cross-sectional household computer-assisted interviews, conducted by the British Market Research Bureau as part of their monthly omnibus survey, of approximately 1,700 - 1,800 adults aged 16 and over in England.

Due to the pandemic, from April 2020 surveys conducted by telephone (rather than face-to-face) and among adults aged 18 and over.

Sample weighted to match population in England on key socio-demographics.

Current cigarette smokers:

This included those who self-reported that they smoked cigarettes (including hand-rolled) every day or that they smoked cigarettes (including hand-rolled) but not every day.

Quit attempt in past year (among adults who smoked in the past year):

This refers to a serious attempt made to stop smoking in the past 12 months. A serious attempt is defined as a decision made by the individual to try to make sure they never smoked another cigarette. This included any attempt that was currently (time of data collection) being made.

Success rate:

This refers to the success rate among smokers who tried to stop in the past year.

Social grade categories:

AB = higher and intermediate professional/managerial, C1 = supervisory, clerical, junior managerial/administrative/professional, C2 = skilled manual workers, D = semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers, and E = on state benefit, unemployed, lowest grade workers.

These are dichotomised into ABC1 (Professional – Clerical) and C2DE (Manual) in the chart provided.

More information:

www.smokinginengland.info

Health Survey for England - Notes

The Health Survey for England (HSE) monitors changes in the health and lifestyles of people all over the country. It provides information about adults aged 16 and over, and children aged 0 to 15, living in private households in England. Around 8,000 adults and 2,000 children take part in the survey each year.

Cigarette smoking prevalence:

This was based on self-reported smoking status at the time of data collection. No distinction was made as to whether respondents were occasional or regular smokers. Individuals were simply asked if they smoke cigarettes nowadays.

E-cigarette prevalence:

This was based on those who currently use e-cigarettes or a vaping device. Respondents were asked whether they use e-cigarette or vaping device nowadays.

More Information:

<http://content.digital.nhs.uk/healthsurveyengland>

Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England - Notes

The Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England (SDD) survey is a survey of secondary school children in England which provides the national estimates of the proportion of young people aged 11 to 15 who smoke, drink alcohol or take illegal drugs. From 1998 to 2014, the SDD was undertaken annually; they survey became biennial in 2016.

The samples are weighted to account for unequal selection probabilities between regions, and to match the school population by sex and school year.

Cigarette smoking prevalence:

This refers to young people who are currently smoking (at time of data collection), and it includes both regular and occasional smokers.

E-cigarette prevalence:

This refers to young people who use electronic cigarettes (both regular and occasional users).

More information:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/areas-of-interest/public-health/smoking-drinking-and-drug-use-among-young-people-in-england>

National Survey for Wales - Notes

The National Survey for Wales (NSW) involves around 12,000 people each year and covers a wide range of topics. It runs all year round, across the whole of Wales. The results are used by the Welsh Government to help make Wales a better place to live.

The NSW replaced the Welsh Health Survey (WHS) as the source of data on health-related lifestyle among adults from 2016-17. Results from the two surveys are not comparable due to the change in survey methodology.

Cigarette smoking prevalence:

This represents those who currently smoke either daily or occasionally. It includes only ordinary tobacco which is smoked and excludes snuff, tobacco or tobacco products that are chewed or sucked, and herbal tobacco.

E-cigarette prevalence:

This refers to the current use of e-cigarettes.

Socioeconomic status (SES):

This refers to area deprivation. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (in quintiles) was used.

More information:

<https://gov.wales/national-survey-wales>

Welsh Health Survey - Notes

The Welsh Health Survey (WHS) provides information about the health and health-related lifestyle of people living in Wales. The WHS was established in 2003 and ran all year round and ended in 2015. Results are published annually. A sample of around 15,000 adults and 3,000 children is aimed for per year. From April 2016 health and health related lifestyles are reported on using the National Survey for Wales (NSW).

Cigarette smoking prevalence:

This refers to those who currently smoke either daily or occasionally.

Quit attempt proportion:

This represents smokers who tried to give up smoking in the last 12 months (preceding the data collection).

Socioeconomic status (SES):

The SES measure used was the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC). It measures the employment relations and conditions of occupations.

More information:

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/Welsh-Health-Survey>

Scottish Health Survey - Notes

Cigarette smoking prevalence:

This refers to the proportion of current cigarette smokers; it excludes those who use cigars and pipes. No distinction is made between regular and occasional smokers.

E-cigarette prevalence:

This refers to the proportion of current e-cigarette users (including as part of a quit attempt). Questions about e-cigarettes were amended in 2016 to include the term 'vaping devices'.

SES (area deprivation):

Quintiles of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) were used. Unlike in the SHeS annual reports, the SIMD data have not been standardised by age.

More information:

<https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-health-survey/>

Health Survey Northern Ireland - Notes

Health Survey Northern Ireland (HSNI) covers a range of health topics that are important to people living in Northern Ireland. It has been running from April 2010.

Cigarette smoking prevalence:

This is the proportion of individuals who currently smoke cigarettes. Respondents were asked if they smoke cigarettes at all nowadays.

E-cigarette prevalence:

This refers to the proportion of those who currently use e-cigarettes. Respondents were asked if they use electronic cigarettes at all nowadays.

SES (area deprivation):

Quintiles of the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure were used.

More information:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/doh-statistics-and-research/health-survey-northern-ireland>

Stop Smoking Services Data - Notes

Self-reported successful quit:

An individual is counted as having successfully quit smoking at the 4-week follow-up if he/she says they have not smoked at all since two weeks after the quit date.

CO validated successful quit:

Carbon Monoxide (CO) validated quitters is reported as the percentage of individuals who set a quit date. CO validation measures the level of carbon monoxide in the bloodstream and provides an indication of the level of use of tobacco. The aim was to attempt CO validation on all clients who self-report as having successfully quit at the 4-week follow-up, except for those who were followed up by telephone.

Socioeconomic status (SES):

The SES classification is similar to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC) categories but these groups may not map directly to the NS-SEC due to the simplified way in which the data are collected.

2019/20* data:

The fiscal year for the NHS SSS data usually runs from April – March. The 2019/20 year currently holds data from April to December 2019. This is because the collection of the Stop Smoking Services data was paused in May on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the production of the quarter 4, 2019/20 publication is on hold.

More information:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/statistics-on-nhs-stop-smoking-services-in-england>