

# Smoking statistics

## Adults

There are about **10 million adults** who smoke cigarettes in Great Britain:

- this is about a sixth of the total UK population
- In Great Britain 22% of adult men and 19% of adult women are smokers

Among men smoking prevalence is **highest in the 25-34 age group** (32%). Among women, smoking is highest among 20-24 year olds (29%).

In 1974, 51% of men and 41% of women smoked cigarettes - nearly half the adult population.

**Smoking rates are markedly higher among poorer people.** In 2012, 14% of adults in managerial and professional occupations smoked compared with 33% in routine and manual occupations.

## Numbers who quit

**22% of women and 27% of men are now ex-smokers.** Surveys show that about two-thirds of current smokers would like to stop smoking.

More than half (59%) of all adults report that they have never smoked.

## Addiction

60% of smokers say they would find it hard to last a whole day without smoking.

## Deaths from smoking

**About half of all regular cigarette smokers will eventually be killed by their addiction.**

Every year, over **100,000 smokers in the UK die from smoking related causes.**

Smoking accounts for over one-third of respiratory deaths, over one-quarter of cancer deaths, and about one-seventh of cardiovascular disease deaths.

## Young people

**Two-thirds of smokers start before age 18.**

In 2011 it was estimated that more than 200,000 children aged 11- 15 started smoking.

It is illegal to sell cigarettes to any person under the age of 18.

## Regional & national smoking rates

There is some variation in smoking rates by region in England and between countries within the UK.

- In 2012, Yorkshire and Humber had the highest prevalence (22.7%) while London and the South East had the lowest at 18%.

In 2012, adult smoking rates by country were:

- England 20%
- Scotland 23%
- Wales 23%
- N.Ireland 24%

## Government revenue and expenditure

In 2012-13 the Government earned **£12.3 billion** in revenue from tobacco tax (including VAT).

The Government spent £88.2m on services to help people stop smoking and a further £60.1m on stop smoking medication.

## Tobacco smoke

**Contains over 4,000 chemical compounds**, present as either gases or as tiny particles. These include carbon monoxide, arsenic, formaldehyde, cyanide, benzene, toluene and acrolein.