

KEY REFERENCES REGARDING SMOKING

DEATHS DUE TO SMOKING

- **In South Australia there are approximately 1 140 tobacco-attributable deaths annually** ⁽¹⁾.

The background for this statistic is as follows:

The two most recent estimates for deaths due to tobacco are by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare ⁽²⁾ and the Department of Health and Ageing ⁽³⁾. The DoHA estimates 14,901 tobacco-attributable deaths in Australia (based on figures from 2004-05) and the AIHW report estimates 15,511 deaths (based on figures from 2003). The differences in estimates are due to differing methodologies and reference years. Based on figures from the AIHW and DoHA reports, Tobacco in Australia estimates that there are 15,000 deaths annually due to tobacco ⁽⁴⁾.

The South Australian mortality statistic is derived from the Tobacco in Australia figures (15,000), and is based on South Australia having 7.6% of the nation's population at the 2006 (most recent) census ⁽⁵⁾ (census data is used as it is more reliable than population projections), therefore, 7.6% of 15,000= 1,140.

- **In Australia, tobacco causes more than 1 in every 10 deaths overall** ⁽²⁾.
- **Over 697,000 Australians are estimated to have died between 1950 and 2000 from tobacco-related illness** ⁽⁶⁾.
- **Worldwide, it is estimated in 2000 that 4.83 million premature deaths are attributable to smoking. This constitutes 12% of total global mortality in those 30 years and older** ⁽⁷⁾.

RISKS TO HEALTH

- **Tobacco is the greatest single risk factor to disease burden in Australia** ⁽²⁾.
- **Tobacco consumption accounts for 7.8% of the total disease burden (including sickness, disability and deaths)** ⁽²⁾.
- **20% of all cancers** ⁽²⁾ **and 70% of lung cancers are attributed to smoking** ⁽⁷⁾.
- **One half of (or one in two) long-term smokers will die prematurely from tobacco-attributable deaths** ⁽⁸⁾.

HOSPITAL BED DAYS

- **Smoking and smoking-related disease is estimated to cost South Australia 57,275 hospital bed days annually** ⁽⁹⁾.

The background for this statistic is as follows:

National estimates suggest that smoking costs 753,618 hospital bed days per year⁽³⁾. South Australian estimates are based on South Australia having 7.6% of the nation's population at the most recent census⁽⁵⁾, therefore, 7.6% of 753,618 = 57,275.

FINANCIAL COSTS OF TOBACCO

- The total annual cost of tobacco consumption is over \$2.39 billion in South Australia⁽⁹⁾.

The background for this statistic is as follows:

National estimates suggest that the total (tangible and intangible) costs of smoking are \$31.4 billion annually⁽³⁾, with South Australian estimates based on having 7.6% of the nation's population⁽⁵⁾, that is, 7.6% of 31.4 billion = 2.39 billion.

- Tobacco consumption accounts for 56.2% of the total (tangible and intangible) social costs of all drug and alcohol abuse⁽³⁾.

Table 1: Costs of drug and alcohol abuse

	Tobacco (\$m)	Alcohol (\$m)	Illicit drugs (\$m)	All drugs (\$m)
Tangible costs	12 026	10 830	6 915	30 829
Intangible costs	19 460	4 489	1 275	25 223
Total costs	31 486	15 318	8 190	56 052

- The net cost to health in South Australia is \$24 million annually⁽⁹⁾.

The background for this statistic is as follows:

This statistic is calculated on the basis of 7.6% of the national estimate for net health costs of \$318 million annually⁽³⁾ (see table 2 for more details).

Table 2: Healthcare costs from tobacco abuse in 2004-05

	Medical (\$m)	Hospitals (\$m)	Nursing homes (\$m)	Pharmaceuticals (\$m)	Ambulances (\$m)	Total (\$m)
Gross Costs	462	670	437	205	63	1 836
Savings from premature death	304	446	614	128	26	1 518
Net costs	158	223	(177)	77	37	318

Note: numbers in brackets are negative

- The social costs of tobacco in Australia have increased by 23.5% between the 1989/99 and 2004/05 financial years ⁽³⁾.

Table 3: Comparison of constant price estimates of the social costs of tobacco abuse

	Tobacco 1989/99 (\$m)	Tobacco 2004/05 (\$m)	Tobacco (% change)
Tangible	9 185	12 026	30.9
Intangible	16 315	19 460	19.3
Total	25 500	31 486	23.5

SMOKING AND PREGNANCY

- In South Australia, 15.9% of women attending first antenatal visit were current smokers, in 2008 ⁽¹⁰⁾.

SMOKING RATES

- There are two *South Australian specific* tools used to measure smoking prevalence within South Australia. Smoking prevalence amongst adults is measured through the Health Omnibus Survey (conducted annually), and smoking amongst school children is assessed through the Australian School Students' Alcohol and Drugs (ASSAD) Survey (conducted every three years). Most recent data for each surveys suggest the following:
 - The Health Omnibus Survey revealed smoking rates (daily, weekly and less than weekly) among adults (aged 15 and above) was 21.0% in 2009. The daily smoking rate in South Australia was 17.8% ⁽¹¹⁾.
 - The most recent South Australian data for the ASSAD survey were collected in 2008 and indicate that that 4% of South Australian school students aged between 12-15 year olds were smokers and 8% of students aged 16-17 currently smoked ⁽¹²⁾.
- There are also two *national* surveys used to assess smoking prevalence. The National Health survey is conducted every three years and was most recently run in 2007-08 (and is scheduled again for 2010-11). The National Drug Strategy Household survey is also run every three years and was mostly conducted in 2007. Most recent data for each survey are:
 - According to the National Health Survey, the national smoking rate for those over 15 was reported to be 20% (18% daily smokers) in 2007-08 ⁽¹³⁾.
 - According to the National Drug Strategy Household Survey, the national prevalence of smoking in 2007 among those aged 14 and over was 21.1% (18% daily smokers). Differences in estimates are partly due to different age classifications ⁽¹⁴⁾.

ABORIGINAL TORRES AND STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

Deaths due to smoking

- Tobacco is responsible for one-fifth (20%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths ⁽¹⁵⁾.

Risks to Health

- Tobacco use is the leading cause of disease burden, accounting for 12% of the total disease burden and 17% of the health gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the total Australian population ⁽¹⁵⁾.
- Tobacco use is the leading cause of all forms of cancer, cardiovascular disease and respiratory diseases and is attributable for:
 - 34.6% of all cancers ⁽¹⁵⁾
 - 92.1% of lung cancers ⁽¹⁵⁾
 - 33% of cardiovascular diseases ⁽¹⁵⁾

Pregnancy and smoking

- In South Australia, 57.4% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women attending first antenatal visit were current smokers in 2008 ⁽¹⁰⁾.

Smoking rates

- There are two *national* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander surveys used to measure smoking prevalence across Australia, calculated for each state based on census data. The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) was conducted in 2008-09 (also previously in 2002 & 1994 (National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Survey)) and measured smoking prevalence amongst adults 15 years and over. The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) was conducted in 2004-05 (previously collected as part of the National Health Survey in 2001 & 1995) and measured smoking prevalence amongst adults 18 years and over. Most recent data from the 2008-09 NATSISS suggest the following:
- 48% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in South Australia are current smokers (46.8% across Australia) ⁽¹⁶⁾.
 - 47.6% of Aboriginal people aged 15 year and over in South Australia are current smokers ⁽¹⁶⁾.
 - 53.3% of Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over in South Australia are current smokers ⁽¹⁶⁾.

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