

Smoking statistics

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Adults

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

- this is about a sixth of the total UK population
- 22% of adult men and 21% of adult women are smokers

Among **women**, smoking is **highest among 20-24 year olds** at 31%; among **men** the highest rate is among **25-34 year olds** of whom 30% smoke.

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

More than half (58%) of all adults report that they have never smoked.

Numbers who quit

22% of women and 30% of men are now ex-smokers. Surveys show that about two-thirds of current smokers would like to stop 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.**

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.

Young people

Two-thirds of smokers start before age 18.

In England around 150,000 children aged 11- 15 are regular smokers.

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

Regional smoking rates

Smoking rates do not vary greatly between different regions of England (defined by the Government Office of the Regions).

- In 2008, Yorkshire had the highest prevalence (25%) while London and the East of England had the lowest at 19%. The biggest drop in smoking between 2007 and 2008 - from 23% to 20% - occurred in the West Midlands.
- In England overall 21% of people smoke.
- In Scotland 24% of the population smoke.
- In Wales the rate is 21%.

Smoking rates are markedly higher among poorer people. In 2008, 14% of adults in managerial and professional occupations smoked compared with 29% in routine and manual occupations.

Government revenue and expenditure

In 2009-10 the Government earned **£10.5 billion** in revenue from tobacco tax (including VAT).

The Government spent £83.9m on services to help people stop smoking and a further £61.8m on stop smoking medication.