
Report Background

_Statistics on Smoking: England_, is a compendium report that has been produced by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) since 2006.

This annual statistical publication presents a range of information on smoking among adults and school children including prevalence, habits, attitudes, NHS costs and the effect on health in terms of hospital admissions and deaths from smoking related illnesses.

The bulletin combines data from different sources and presents it in a user-friendly format. Most of the data contained in the bulletin have been published previously; either by the Health and Social Care Information Centre, the Department of Health, London Health Observatory and Smoke Free London or the Office for National Statistics. Some of the data presented here for the first time at England level have been previously published at Great Britain (GB) level. Where figures for England are not available, figures for Great Britain are provided.

Most of these reports have methodology sections explained with separate annexes or appendices. The report includes up to date information on the latest smoking related government policies and targets and contains links to further sources of useful information. The report also includes information on prescription drugs used to help people quit smoking showing the volume and costs of prescription.

Where possible we use National Statistics or Official Statistics. Most of the sources referred to in this publication are National Statistics. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. It is a statutory requirement that National Statistics should observe the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The UK Statistics Authority assesses all National Statistics for compliance with the Code of Practice.

Some of the statistics referred to in this publication are not National Statistics and are included here to provide a fuller picture; some of these are Official Statistics, whilst others are neither National Statistics nor Official Statistics. Those which are Official Statistics should still conform to the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, although this is not a statutory requirement. Those that are neither National Statistics nor Official Statistics may not conform to the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

A brief explanation and a short review of the quality of each of the sets of statistics used in this publication have been included in Appendix A of this publication.

The additional new analyses carried out by the HSCIC includes:

(a) data from the ONS General Lifestyle Survey (GLF) at England level;
(b) statistics on the number of hospital admissions attributable to smoking;
(c) statistics on the affordability of tobacco;
(d) statistics on prescription drugs
Accuracy
Some of the information in this report is previously published. The sources of the information are trusted sources; the majority being National or Official Statistics. Information that is included in this series of publications is assessed according to strict criteria and is regarded as being relevant, timely and adding value.

Appendix A provides detailed information on the sources of information and also contained technical information relating to some of the statistical analysis contained within the report.

Timeliness
The report uses the most up to date information and all sources being reused from the previous year are checked for updates and further publications. The HES data that is used is the most up to date available and anything that has not been updated is considered for inclusion based on what value repeating any previous statements would add to the current publication.

Accessibility
The report is published online and is available free of charge. A set of excel tables and CSV data tables accompany this publication. All sources used in the publication are referenced with links to where they can be found online and the major contributing sources are also explained in further detail within the appendices.

Confidentiality
This publication is subject to an HSCIC risk assessment prior to issue. No personal information is contained in the report and any potentially disclosive figures are suppressed in line with the HSCIC’s small numbers policy and the methodology used in the source document to ensure confidentiality is upheld.