Smoking in Queensland
status, trends and disparities

Over the past twenty years (1998–2018), the Queensland Government has successfully implemented a comprehensive range of tobacco control initiatives which has resulted in a halving of the smoking rate.

However, smoking continues to be the leading cause of premature death and disease in Queensland—because of the impact of past history of smoking on adverse health outcomes.

Smoking is a key contributor to health disparities. The most unequal health outcomes in Queensland are those for Indigenous Queenslanders and people from low socioeconomic circumstances. Addressing the burden of smoking is key to narrowing the gap.

11% of adults smoked daily in 2018

Halved over the past 20 years
Continues to decline
Widespread decrease across regional Queensland

Uptake is slowing...

5% of teenagers smoked daily in 2016

70% reduction in youth smoking over 20 years

More people are quitting...

The cessation rate is steadily increasing – 10% improvement in the past 9 years

Maternal smoking...

12% of mothers smoked during pregnancy

About 7400 women in 2016

Maternal smoking is declining, but at a slower rate for teenagers, Indigenous Queenslander mothers and those from low socioeconomic areas.

Tobacco smoking is the leading cause of burden of disease in Queensland and nationally.
Smoking in Queensland

Living in a household with a smoker

1 in 4 children aged 0–14 years (246,000) lived in a household with a smoker in 2014–15.

1 in 2 Indigenous Queenslanders children (17,000)

Indigenous Queenslanders

Indigenous Queenslanders have higher rates of smoking

2.5 times higher for adults

5 times higher for 15–17 year olds

23% of the Indigenous Queenslanders health gap was due to smoking

4 times higher for maternal smoking

Socioeconomic gradient for smoking

2.5 times higher for disadvantaged adults and rate of decline is about half that of other Queenslanders

5 times higher for maternal smoking

Impact

3600 deaths were due to smoking in 2016 (1741 lung cancer and 1370 COPD).

58,700 hospitalisations were due to smoking in 2015–16 and 60% were males.

Rates of smoking vary across Queensland

8 of 15 HHSs had higher smoking rates in 2017–18 than the State average.

About two-thirds of regular smokers are likely to die from a smoking related illness —some 300,000 Queenslanders have avoided an early death as a result of smoking rate decline over the past 20 years.

More information on smoking and its impact on health including access to interactive data visualisations and detail on definitions and methods is available from the main report and the website: www.health.qld.gov.au/cho_report

For further information: Population_Epidemiology@health.qld.gov.au