

TOBACCO

Prevalence

- In Australia, between 1991 and 2010 daily tobacco smoking rates declined from 24.3% to 15.1%. This is the lowest level recorded during the 19 year period.
- In 2010 it was estimated that Australian smokers numbered around 3.3 million. There were 4.4m ex-smokers and 10.6m who had never smoked.
- Females aged between 12 and 17 years (3.2%) were more likely than males aged 12 -17 years (1.8%) to be daily smokers. For all other ages males had higher smoking rates than females.
- The majority of people who inject drugs in Australia also report smoking tobacco.

Harms

- In 2010, tobacco smoking was the second leading risk factor for global disease burden (Lim, 2012)
- Tobacco smoking remains the leading preventable cause of death and disease in Australia.
- Lung cancer was the leading cause of cancer mortality in both males and females in Australia in 2010 (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare & Australasian Association of Cancer Registries, 2012).