

Person—tobacco smoking start age (daily smoking), total years NN

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Person—tobacco smoking start age (daily smoking), total years NN

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Tobacco smoking—start age (daily smoking)
METEOR identifier:	270324
Registration status:	Health , Superseded 19/11/2015
Definition:	The age in years at which a person who has ever been a daily smoker, first started to smoke daily.
Context:	Public health and health care
Data Element Concept:	Person—tobacco smoking start age
Value Domain:	Total years NN

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Total	
Data type:	String	
Format:	NN	
Maximum character length:	2	
	Value	Meaning
Supplementary values:	99	Not stated/inadequately described
Unit of measure:	Year	

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	Record age in completed years. This information is relevant only if a person currently smokes daily or has smoked daily in the past.
Collection methods:	The recommended standard for collecting this information is the Standard Questions on the Use of Tobacco Among Adults (1998) - interviewer administered (Question 7) and self-administered (Question 4) versions. The questions cover persons aged 18 years and over.

Comments: Start-age may be used to derive duration of smoking, which is a much stronger predictor of the risks associated with smoking than is the total amount of tobacco smoked over time.


Where the information is collected by survey and the sample permits, population estimates should be presented by sex and age groups. The recommended age groups are: <10, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20-24, 25-29 and 30. Summary statistics may need to be adjusted for age and other relevant variables.

It is recommended that in surveys of smoking, data on age, sex and other socio-demographic variables should be collected. It is also recommended that when smoking is investigated in relation to health, data on other risk factors including pregnancy status, physical activity, overweight and obesity, and alcohol consumption should be collected.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Has been superseded by [Person—tobacco smoking start age, total years N\[NN\] Health](#), Standard 19/11/2015

Is used in the formation of [Person—tobacco smoking duration \(daily smoking\), total years N\[N\] Health](#), Standard 01/03/2005

Is re-engineered from  [Tobacco smoking - start age \(daily smoking\), version 1, DE, NHDD, NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf](#) (15.7 KB)

No registration status

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: [Lung cancer \(clinical\) DSS Health](#), Superseded 14/05/2015

Conditional obligation: Conditional on the patient currently smoking tobacco daily or smoking daily in the past.

[Lung cancer \(clinical\) NBPDS Health](#), Standard 14/05/2015

Conditional obligation:

Conditional on the patient currently smoking tobacco daily or smoking daily in the past.