

Person—tobacco smoking duration (daily smoking), total years N[N]

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Person—tobacco smoking duration (daily smoking), total years N[N]

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Tobacco smoking—duration (daily smoking)
METEOR identifier:	270330
Registration status:	Health , Standard 01/03/2005
Definition:	The total duration in years, of daily smoking for a person who is now a daily smoker or has been a daily smoker in the past.
Context:	Public health and health care

Data element concept attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element concept:	Person—tobacco smoking duration
METEOR identifier:	269769
Registration status:	Health , Standard 01/03/2005
Definition:	Duration of smoking for a person who is now a smoker or has been a smoker in the past.
Object class:	Person
Property:	Tobacco smoking duration

Value domain attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Value domain:	Total years N[N]
METEOR identifier:	270843
Registration status:	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare , Recorded 30/10/2023 Community Services (retired) , Standard 06/02/2012 Health , Standard 01/03/2005
Definition:	Total number of completed years.

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Total	
Data type:	Number	
Format:	N[N]	
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: In order to estimate duration of smoking the person's date of birth or current age should also be collected. If a person reports that they smoke daily now then duration is the difference between the start-age and the person's current age. If a person reports that they smoked daily in the past but do not smoke daily now then duration is the difference between the quit age and the start age. Record duration of less than one year as 0.

Collection methods: The recommended standard for collecting this information is the Standard Questions on the Use of Tobacco Among Adults (1998) - interviewer administered (Question 1, 5, 6, 7) and self-administered (Question 1, 3, 3a, 4) versions. The questions cover persons aged 18 years and over.

Comments: Duration of daily smoking is an indicator of exposure to increased risk to health. In this data element, duration is measured as the years elapsed from the time the person first started smoking daily and when they most recently quit smoking daily (or the present for those persons who still smoke daily). There may have been intervening periods when the person did not smoke daily. However, as the negative health effects of smoking accumulate over time, the information on duration of daily smoking, as measured in this data element, remains useful, despite any intervening periods of non-daily smoking.


Where this information is collected by survey and the sample permits, population estimates should be presented by sex and 5-year age groups. 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: Is formed using [Person—tobacco smoking quit age \(daily smoking\), total years NN Health](#), Standard 01/03/2005

Is formed using [Person—tobacco smoking start age \(daily smoking\), total years NN Health](#), Superseded 19/11/2015

Is re-engineered from  [Tobacco smoking - duration \(daily smoking\), version 1, Derived DE, NHDD, NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf](#) (16.7 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

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