

---

# Tobacco smoking - frequency

---

**Important note: This is an archived metadata standard from the AIHW Knowledgebase. For current metadata standards and related information please access METeOR, the AIHW's Metadata Online Registry at <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au>**

## *Identifying and Definitional Attributes*

Data Dictionary: NHDD  
Knowledgebase ID: 000406 Version number: 1  
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT  
Registration Authority: NHIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED  
Effective date: 01-MAR-05  
Definition: How often a person now smokes a tobacco product.  
Context: Public health and health care: The frequency of smoking helps to assess a person's exposure to tobacco smoke which is a known risk factor for cardiovascular disease and cancer. From a public health point of view, the level of consumption of tobacco as measured by frequency of smoking tobacco products is only relevant for regular smokers (persons who smoke daily or at least weekly).

---

## *Relational and Representational Attributes*

Datatype: Numeric  
Representational form: CODE  
Representation layout: N  
Minimum Size: 1  
Maximum Size: 1  
Data Domain: 1 Smokes daily  
2 Smokes at least weekly, but not daily  
3 Smokes less often than weekly  
4 Does not smoke at all  
Guide For Use: To record multiple use data, repeat the data field as many times as necessary, viz: product1, product2 etc. In most instances, data on both product and frequency are needed. In such situations, repeat both fields as many times as necessary, viz: product1, frequency1, product2, frequency2 etc.  
Collection Methods: The recommended standard for collecting this information is the Standard Questions on the Use of Tobacco Among Adults - interviewer administered (Question 1) and self-administered (Question 1) versions. The questions relate to smoking of

manufactured cigarettes, roll-your-own cigarettes, cigars, pipes and other tobacco products and are designed to cover persons aged 18 years and over.

Related metadata: is a qualifier of Tobacco smoking - consumption/quantity (cigarettes) version 1  
relates to the data element Tobacco smoking - duration (daily smoking) version 1  
relates to the data element Tobacco smoking - ever daily use version 1  
is used in conjunction with Tobacco smoking - product version 1  
relates to the data element Tobacco smoking - start age (daily smoking) version 1  
is qualified by Date of birth version 4

---

### *Administrative Attributes*

Source Document: Standard Questions on the Use of Tobacco Among Adults (1998)

Source Organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

---

Comments: 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.

The Standard Questions on the Use of Tobacco Among Adults Available etc. are available from the National Centre for Monitoring Cardiovascular Disease at the AIHW, telephone (02) 6244 1000.

### *Data Element Links*

*Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element*

NHIM Lifestyle characteristic

*Data Agreements which include this Data Element*

---