

Guide For Use: The above grouping subdivides a population into five mutually exclusive categories.

Daily smoker: A person who smokes daily

Weekly smoker: A person who smokes at least weekly but not daily

Irregular smoker: A person who smokes less than weekly

Ex-smoker: A person who does not smoke at all now, but has smoked at least 100 cigarettes or a similar amount of other tobacco products in his/her lifetime.

Never-smoker: A person who does not smoke now and has smoked fewer than 100 cigarettes or similar amount of other tobacco products in his/her lifetime.

Collection Methods: The recommended standard for collecting this information is the Standard Questions on the Use of Tobacco Among Adults - interviewer administered (Questions 1 and 4) and self-administered (Questions 1 and 1a) versions. The questionnaires are designed to cover persons aged 18 years and over.

Related metadata: is qualified by Date of birth version 4
relates to the data element Behaviour-related risk factor intervention version 1
relates to the data element Behaviour-related risk factor intervention - purpose version 1

Administrative Attributes

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

Source Organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Comments: There are two other ways of categorising this information:

- Regular and irregular smokers where a regular smoker includes someone who is a daily smoker or a weekly smoker. 'Regular' smokers is the preferred category to be reported in prevalence estimates.

- Daily and occasional smokers where an occasional smoker includes someone who is a weekly or irregular smoker. The category of 'occasional' smoker can be used when the aim of the study is to draw contrast between daily smokers and other smokers.

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.

