

# Person—tobacco smoking start age, total years N[NN]

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Data Element
<b>Short name:</b>	Tobacco smoking start age
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	376322
<b>Registration status:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Health</a>, Standard 19/11/2015</li></ul>
<b>Definition:</b>	The age in years at which a person first smoked a full cigarette.
<b>Context:</b>	Public health and health care
<b>Data Element Concept:</b>	<a href="#">Person—tobacco smoking start age</a>

## Value domain attributes

## Representational attributes

<b>Representation class:</b>	Total				
<b>Data type:</b>	Number				
<b>Format:</b>	N[NN]				
<b>Maximum character length:</b>	3				
<b>Supplementary values:</b>	<table><thead><tr><th>Value</th><th>Meaning</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>999</td><td>Unknown/not stated</td></tr></tbody></table>	Value	Meaning	999	Unknown/not stated
Value	Meaning				
999	Unknown/not stated				
<b>Unit of measure:</b>	Year				

## Data element attributes

## Collection and usage attributes

<b>Guide for use:</b>	Record age in completed years.
<b>Collection methods:</b>	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.
<b>Comments:</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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: &lt;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.</p> <p>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.</p>

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:** Supersedes [Person—tobacco smoking start age \(daily smoking\), total years NN](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 19/11/2015

Supersedes [Person—tobacco smoking start age, total years N\[NN\]](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 19/11/2015

**Implementation in Data Set Specifications:**

[Prison dischargée smoking status clusterHealth](#), Superseded 28/04/2016

***Conditional obligation:***

Conditional on a yes response to [Person - ever smoked a full cigarette indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N](#).

[Smoking status cluster Health](#), Standard 28/04/2016

***Conditional obligation:***

Conditional on the person indicating that they have ever smoked a full cigarette.

***DSS specific information:***

In the Prisoner Health NBEDS 'tobacco smoking start age' refers to the age at which a person smoked their first full cigarette.

This data element is included in the Prisoner Health NBEDS as the National Prisoner Health Indicators includes the indicator: Mean age at which prison entrants smoked their first full cigarette.