

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

Identifying and definitional attributes

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

Data element concept attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element concept:	Person—tobacco smoking start age
METEOR identifier:	269762
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health, Standard 01/03/2005
Definition:	The age at which a person first started to smoke.
Object class:	Person
Property:	Tobacco smoking start age

Value domain attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Value domain:	Total years N[NN]
METEOR identifier:	290412
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children and Families, Standard 22/11/2016• Community Services (retired), Standard 04/05/2005• Disability, Standard 13/08/2015• Early Childhood, Standard 21/05/2010• Health, Standard 04/05/2005• Housing assistance, Standard 29/08/2005• Indigenous, Standard 13/03/2015• National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016• Tasmanian Health, Incomplete 14/09/2012• WA Health, Standard 06/03/2014
Definition:	Total number of completed years.

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Total
Data type:	Number
Format:	N[NN]

Maximum character length: 3

Supplementary values:

Value	Meaning
999	Unknown/not stated

Unit of measure: Year

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: Record age in completed years.

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.

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 dischargee 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.