

Fastfacts

Smoking in Scotland

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Smoking rates

- The Scottish Household Survey suggests 23.1% of adults smoke, although taking all the available surveys on adult smoking rates together gives an average estimate of 21.5%
- 2% of 13 year olds and 9% of 15 year olds in Scotland are regular smokers
- 15,000 young people start smoking each year in Scotland
- 18.4% of pregnant women in Scotland smoke at the time of their first antenatal appointment
- 70% of Scottish smokers say they would like to stop smoking

Death and disease

- in Scotland in 2009 approximately 13,000 deaths were attributable to smoking and approximately 56,000 hospital admissions
- a quarter of all deaths in Scotland are related to tobacco
- in Scotland amongst the 35 - 69 age group an average of 22 years of life are lost for every smoking-related death

Inequalities

- 40% of adults living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland smoke, compared to 11% of adults living in the 15% least deprived areas. This gap has remained relatively constant over recent years
- 29.8% of pregnant women in the most deprived fifth of the population smoke at the time of their first antenatal appointment, compared to 6% in the least deprived fifth
- 32% of deaths in the most deprived fifth of the population were from smoking-attributable causes, compared with 15% in the least deprived fifth

Economics

- smoking costs Scotland nearly £1.1 billion every year
- smoking costs more to Scotland than the tax revenue it generates
- a 1% reduction in smoking prevalence would save around 540 lives a year; reduce smoking-attributable hospital admissions by around 2,300; and reduce estimated NHS spending on smoking-related illness by between £13 million and £21 million

Action on Smoking & Health (Scotland) (ASH Scotland) is a registered Scottish charity (SC 010412) and a company limited by guarantee (Scottish company no 141711)

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