

Fastfacts

Smoking in Scotland

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Smoking rates

- 18% of adults in Scotland are current smokers (20% of men and 16% of women)
- smoking rates have dropped significantly in Scotland from 28% in 2003 to 18% in 2017
- 2% of 13 year olds and 7% of 15 year olds in Scotland are regular smokers
- 7% of adults in Scotland currently use an e-cigarette
- an average of 13,300 children aged 11– 15 start smoking each year in Scotland
- 14.8% of pregnant women in Scotland smoke at the time of their first antenatal appointment
- around two-thirds (70% in 2016) of Scottish smokers say they would like to stop smoking

Death and disease

- there are over 10,000 smoking-related deaths a year in Scotland and around a fifth of all deaths in Scotland are related to tobacco
- there are 128,000 smoking-related hospital admissions every year in Scotland, equating to 2,500 people a week, 350 people a day or 15 people an hour
- in Scotland amongst the 35 - 69 age group an average of 22 years of life are lost for every smoking-related death

Inequalities

- 27% of adults living in the most deprived SIMD quintile smoke compared to 9% in the least deprived. The gap between smoking prevalence in the most deprived and the least deprived areas has narrowed by 10% between 2003 and 2017
- People are about 25% more likely to smoke if they have a limiting long term physical or mental health condition
- 26.5% of pregnant women in the most deprived SIMD quintile are current smokers at the time of their first antenatal appointment, compared to 3.4% in the least deprived
- if the smoking rate in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland fell just 1% (from 27% to 26%) Scotland's poorest communities would save £14.5 million a year
- approximately 1.2 million children in the UK are living in poverty in households where adults smoke. If these adults quit and the costs of smoking were returned to household budgets, 365,000 of these children would be lifted out of poverty

Economics

- smoking costs Scotland nearly £1.1 billion every year
- smoking costs more to Scotland than the tax revenue it generates.

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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