



# Australian School Students Alcohol and Drug Survey 2011 Western Australian Results: Tobacco

## What is the purpose of the survey?

The Australian School Student Alcohol and Drug (ASSAD) survey provides a snapshot of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among secondary school students. The survey has been conducted every three years since 1984 and the previous survey was conducted in 2008.

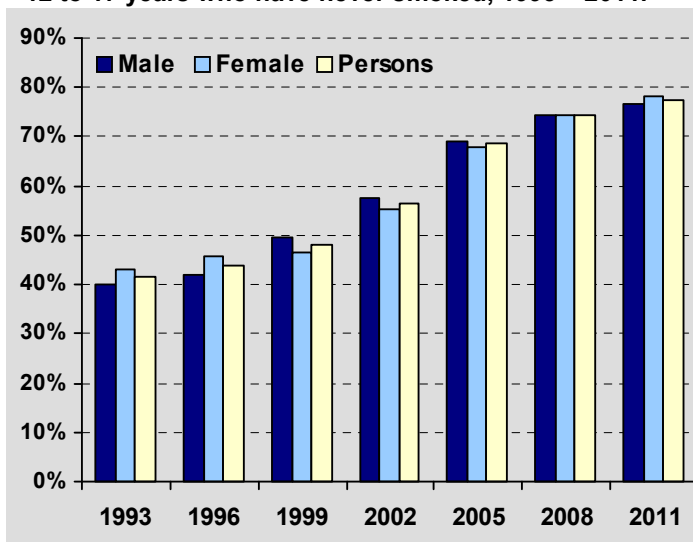
## Who took part?

In 2011, 110 secondary schools were approached to take part in the survey. Of these, 65 schools declined to participate and 45 schools agreed to participate. This resulted in a response rate of 41%.

From the schools who took part in the survey, 3799 students completed the questionnaires. Of these, 3771 (99.3%) provided valid responses for age and gender and were included in the final sample.

The students were randomly selected from government, Catholic and independent schools, and voluntarily completed the paper-based survey during school hours. The report presents estimates derived from the survey responses weighted to the appropriate Western Australian population group by age, gender and school type. This helps to address any over or under sampling with respect to age, gender and school type.

**Figure 1. Lifetime prevalence of school students aged 12 to 17 years who have never smoked, 1993 – 2011.**



**Table 1. Prevalence of tobacco use by school students aged 12 to 17 years by gender and recency of use, 2005 – 2011.**

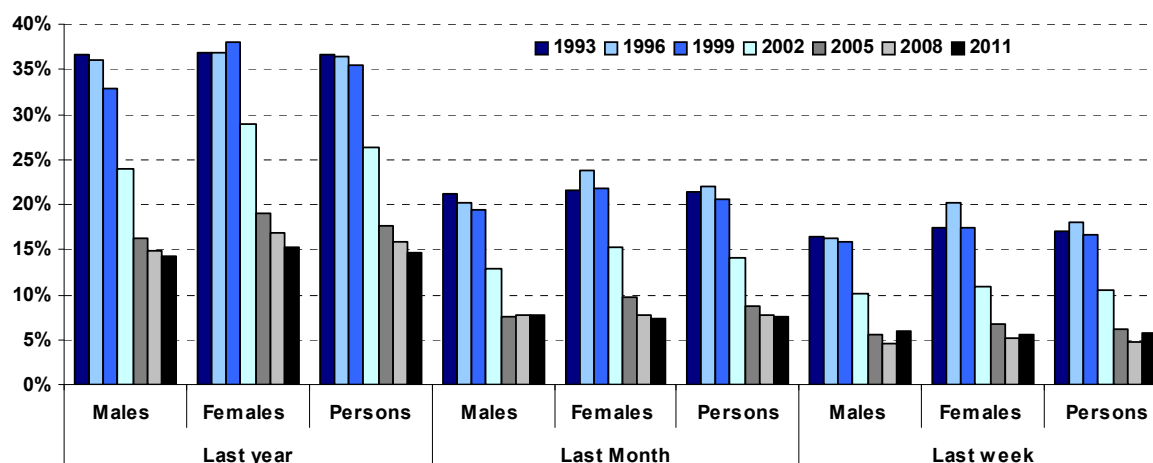
	2005	2008	2011		2005	2008	2011
% Never smoked				% Smoked in past month			
Male	68.9*	74.2	76.7	Male	7.6	7.7	7.7
Female	68.0*	74.3*	78.3	Female	9.8*	7.8	7.3
Persons	68.5*	74.2*	77.4	Persons	8.7	7.7	7.5
% Smoked in past year				% Smoked in past week			
Male	16.2	14.9	14.3	Male	5.5	4.6	5.9
Female	19.0*	16.8	15.2	Female	6.8	5.1	5.6
Persons	17.6*	15.9	14.7	Persons	6.1	4.8	5.7

\* Sig different from 2011 at  $p < 0.05$ .

## Key findings

- 5.7% of students aged 12 to 17 years reported smoking in the week prior to the survey<sup>1</sup>. The mean number of cigarettes smoked was 17.6 (see Table 2).
- The proportion of 12 to 17 year old school students who had never smoked in their life increased significantly from 2008 (see Table 1 – asterisk indicates a significant change). The 2011 result continues the upwards trend demonstrated in previous years.

**Figure 2. Prevalence of tobacco use in school students aged 12 to 17 years by gender and recency of use, 1993 – 2011.**



- Figure 2 shows that smoking prevalence has continued to decline for both males and females and is up to two-thirds less than that recorded in 1993.
- Of those students who smoked last week 9.9% indicated that they were certain not to be smoking next year and 37.8% were undecided.
- Friends (46.4%) were the most common source of cigarettes for those who smoked. One in five (20.1%) bought single cigarettes that were not in a full packet.

**Table 2. Recency of tobacco smoking for school students by age for 2011.**

	12 yrs		13 yrs		14 yrs		15 yrs		16 yrs		17 yrs		12-17 yrs	
	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
<b>Never smoked</b>														
Males	87.9	115	84.5	328	76.7	448	75.7	377	67.8	282	52.4	48	76.7	1,598
Females	92.5	70	81.5	211	81.2	312	73.7	289	67.2	298	64.8	47	78.3	1,227
Persons	90.1	185	83.1	539	78.8	760	74.8	666	67.5	580	58.6	95	77.4	2,825
<b>Smoked last year</b>														
Males	0.2	<10	10.3	34	15.6	91	14.3	72	21.5	87	38.1	29	14.3	314
Females	1.4	<10	13.0	39	13.3	68	19.7	81	25.7	98	23.4	24	15.2	312
Persons	0.8	<10	11.6	73	14.4	159	16.9	153	23.6	185	30.8	53	14.7	626
<b>Smoked last month</b>														
Males	n/a	0	3.8	13	8.6	50	8.1	41	13.0	53	21.0	15	7.7	172
Females	n/a	0	6.3	19	6.1	33	9.6	41	13.1	46	11.9	13	7.3	152
Persons	n/a	0	5.0	32	7.4	83	8.8	82	13.1	99	16.5	28	7.5	324
<b>Smoked last week</b>														
Males	n/a	0	3.0	10	6.2	36	6.3	32	9.4	36	17.4	11	5.9	125
Females	n/a	0	4.4	13	4.7	25	8.6	37	8.6	28	10.1	11	5.6	114
Persons	n/a	0	3.7	23	5.5	61	7.4	69	9.0	64	13.8	22	5.7	239
<b>Of those who smoked last week – Mean number of cigarettes smoked<sup>1</sup></b>														
Males	n/a	0	5.2	10	20.3	35	15.3	30	19.7	34	15.2	10	17.2	119
Females	n/a	0	9.0	12	18.0	24	18.5	36	19.9	28	21.8	11	18.0	111
Persons	n/a	0	7.3	22	19.4	59	17.0	66	19.8	62	18.7	21	17.6	230

<sup>1</sup> Calculation of mean is based on unweighted data and excludes students who reported smoking more than 40 cigarettes per day.

<sup>1</sup> Although the proportion of students who have smoked in the past week has increased this result is not statistically significant. No other changes from 2008 were statistically significant.

### Supporting Information

**Suggested citation:** Drug and Alcohol Office & Tobacco Policy Chronic Disease Prevention (2012). *Australian School Student Alcohol and Drug Survey 2012: Western Australian Results: Tobacco*. Brief Communication no.6. Perth: Drug and Alcohol Office.

**Data Notes:** Sample sizes less than 40 are italicised.