
SMOKE-FREE ONTARIO ACT, as of May 31, 2006

Fact Sheet - Smoking Trends in Ontario

Ministry of Health Promotion

Le ministère de la Promotion de la santé

This fact sheet provides basic information only. It must not take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Always talk to a health care professional about any concerns you have, and before you make any changes to your diet, lifestyle or treatment.

Eighteen percent of Ontarians aged 15 and older smoked in 2007. Daily smokers smoked an average of 15.54 cigarettes per day.

Long-term smoking trends

Within the past two decades, all age groups in Ontario have experienced a decline in smoking rates. Smoking prevalence dropped substantially during the 1980's, plateaued during the early to mid 1990s, and then declined again beginning in the late 1990s. In the past few years, smoking rates for Ontarians 15 years of age and older have remained stable with no further declines observed.

Smoking trends, 2003-2007

Smoking prevalence by age group for 2003 to 2007*

Age	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
15+	20%	19%	16	17%	18%
15-19	14%	17%	16	13%	13%
20-24	30%	24%	21	25%	22%

*From Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey (Health Canada)

Estimates of smoking prevalence (i.e., the percentage of current smokers – daily and occasional – in the population) are based on self-report and are generally considered to be under-estimates of the true smoking prevalence.

Aged 15 and older:

The percentage of population aged 15 and older in Ontario reporting themselves to be smokers decreased from 20 per cent in 2003 to 18 per cent in 2007.

Aged 15-19:

According to Health Canada, smoking prevalence for Canadian youth aged 15 to 19 years peaked in the mid- to late-90s with a high of 28 per cent. The smoking prevalence for this age group has decreased substantially since 1999 (*data not shown in table above*). In 2007, 13 per cent of youth aged 15-19 years of age reported to be current smokers.

Aged 20-24:

Smoking prevalence has historically been higher among young adults aged 20 to 24 years than any other age group. 25 % of young adults reported to be current smokers in 2007.

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