

Data from the Canadian Community Health Survey on cigarette smoking

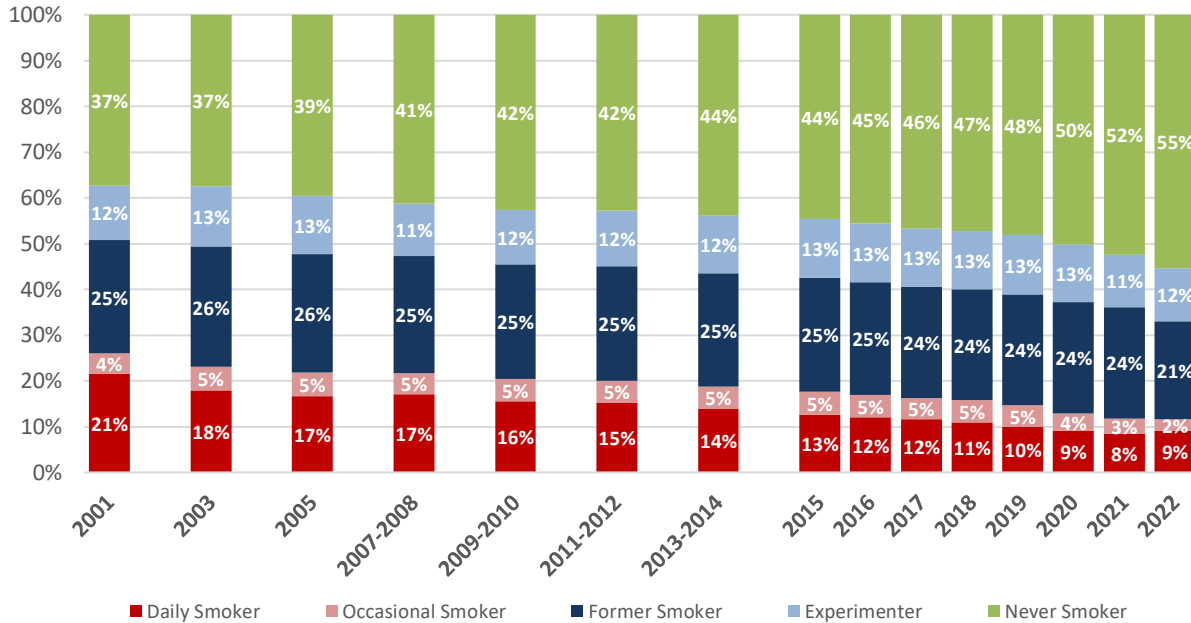
November 2023

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Cigarette Smoking Characteristics – 2001 to 2022

Figure 1: Canadian population (aged 12+) by smoking status, 5 Definition (%): 2001 to 2022.

Canadian Community Health Survey, Variable SMKDVSTY



Canadian population (aged 12+) by smoking status, 5 Definition: (# of people): 2001 to 2022.

Canadian Community Health Survey, Variable SMKDVSTY

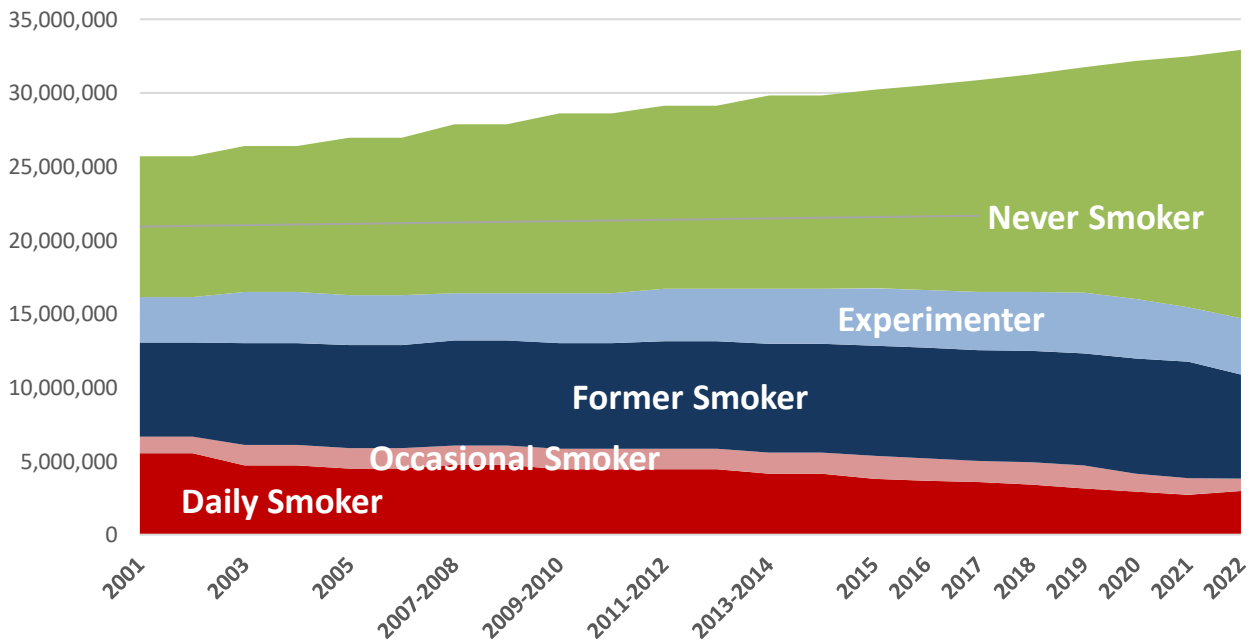


Table 1A: Canadian population (aged 12+) by smoking status, 6 definition 2015-2022.
(000s of people)

Canadian Community Health Survey, Master File Data Dictionary (rounded counts), Variable SMKDVSTY

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total current smokers	5,344	5,161	5,006	4,927	4,685	4,160	3,831	3,804
-Current daily smoker	3,809.5	3,668	3,577	3,392.5	3,160	2,916.5	2,716.5	2,981.5
-Current occasional smoker	1,534.5	1,492.5	1,429	1,534	1,524.5	1,243.5	1,114	822.5
Total former smoker	7,501.5	7,526.0	7,540.5	7,572.0	7,642.5	7,789.5	7,900.5	7,069
-Former daily smoker (non smoker now)	6,624.5	6,647	6,692.5	6,650.5	6,694.5	6,803	7,001.5	6,272.5
-Former occasional smoker (non-smoker now)	877	879	848	921.5	948	986.5	899	796.5
Experimental smoker	3,879	3,916.5	3,927	3,984.5	4,123.5	4,045.5	3,725	3,826
Smoked at least 1 cigarette but less than 100 and is a non-smoker now								
Total ever smoker	16,724.5	16,603.5	16,473.5	16,483.5	16,451.0	15,995.0	15,456.5	14,699.0
Never smoker	13,499	13,929.5	14,407	14,780.5	15,291.5	16,158	17,008.5	18,226
Never smoked a whole cigarette								
Unknown (answer not given)	127	132.5	105	129.5	125	79.5	71	81
Total population	30,350.5	30,665.5	30,985.5	31,393.5	31,867	32,232.5	32,535.5	33,006

Table 1B: Canadian population (aged 12+) by smoking status, 6 definition 2001-2014.
(000s of people)

Canadian Community Health Survey, Public Use Microfile, Variable SMKDVSTY

	2001	2003	2005	2007-2008	2009-2010	2011-2012	2013-2014
Total current smokers	6,677.4	6,081.4	5,874.6	6,063	5,846.9	5,847.5	5,568
-Current daily smoker	5,529	4,722.6	4,478.6	4,766.6	4,456.9	4,451.3	4,147.7
-Current occasional smoker	1,148.4	1,358.8	1,396	1,296.9	1,390	1,396.2	1,420.3
Total former smoker	6,360.7	6,932	6,984	7,129.7	7,144.8	7,271	7,414.6
-Former daily smoker (non smoker now) and Former occasional smoker (non-smoker now)							
Experimental smoker	3,092.3	3,472.1	3,426.3	3,206.2	3,415.7	3,571.7	3,723.9
Smoked at least 1 cigarette but less than 100 and is a non-smoker now							
Total ever smoker	16,130	16,486	16,285	16,399	16,407	16,690	16,707
Never smoker	9,583	9,906.3	10,681.3	11,482.8	12,181.5	12,449	13,099.1
Never smoked a whole cigarette							
Total population	25,787.3	26,555.4	27,126.2	28,017.4	28,725.1	29,335.2	30,002.8

**Table 2A: Canadian population (aged 12+) by smoking status, 6 definition 2015-2022.
(Percentage of population)**

Canadian Community Health Survey, Master File Data Dictionary (rounded counts), Variable SMKDVSTY

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total current smokers	17.6%	16.8%	16.2%	15.7%	14.7%	12.9%	11.8%	11.5%
-Current daily smoker	12.6%	12.0%	11.5%	10.8%	9.9%	9.0%	8.3%	9.0%
-Current occasional smoker	5.1%	4.9%	4.6%	4.9%	4.8%	3.9%	3.4%	2.5%
Total former smoker	24.7%	24.5%	24.3%	24.1%	24.0%	24.2%	24.3%	21.4%
-Former daily smoker (non smoker now)	21.8%	21.7%	21.6%	21.2%	21.0%	21.1%	21.5%	19.0%
-Former occasional smoker (non-smoker now)	2.9%	2.9%	2.7%	2.9%	3.0%	3.1%	2.8%	2.4%
Experimental smoker	12.8%	12.8%	12.7%	12.7%	12.9%	12.6%	11.4%	11.6%
Smoked at least 1 cigarette but less than 100 and is a non-smoker now								
Total ever smoker	55.1%	54.1%	53.2%	52.5%	51.6%	49.6%	47.5%	44.5%
Never smoker	44.5%	45.4%	46.5%	47.1%	48.0%	50.1%	52.3%	55.2%
Never smoked a whole cigarette								
Unknown (answer not given)	0.42%	0.43%	0.34%	0.41%	0.39%	0.25%	0.22%	0.25%
Total population	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Table 2B: Canadian population (aged 12+) by smoking status, 5 definition 2001-2014.
(Percentage of population)**

Canadian Community Health Survey, Public Use Microfile, Variable SMKDVSTY

	2001	2003	2005	2007-2008	2009-2010	2011-2012	2013-2014
Total current smokers	25.9%	22.9%	21.7%	21.6%	20.4%	19.9%	18.6%
-Current daily smoker	21.4%	17.8%	16.5%	17.0%	15.5%	15.2%	13.8%
-Current occasional smoker	4.5%	5.1%	5.1%	4.6%	4.8%	4.8%	4.7%
Total former smoker	24.7%	26.1%	25.7%	25.4%	24.9%	24.8%	24.7%
-Former daily smoker (non smoker now)							
-Former occasional smoker (non-smoker now)							
Experimental smoker	12.0%	13.1%	12.6%	11.4%	11.9%	12.2%	12.4%
Smoked at least 1 cigarette but less than 100 and is a non-smoker now							
Total ever smoker	62.6%	62.1%	60.0%	58.5%	57.1%	56.9%	55.7%
Never smoker	37.2%	37.3%	39.4%	41.0%	42.4%	42.4%	43.7%
Never smoked a whole cigarette							
Total population	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Month in which past-year former smokers quit.

Figure 3: Month in which smokers quit (% of past-year quitters), CCHS 2015-2021

Canadian Community Health Survey, Variable SMK_065 and SMK_085

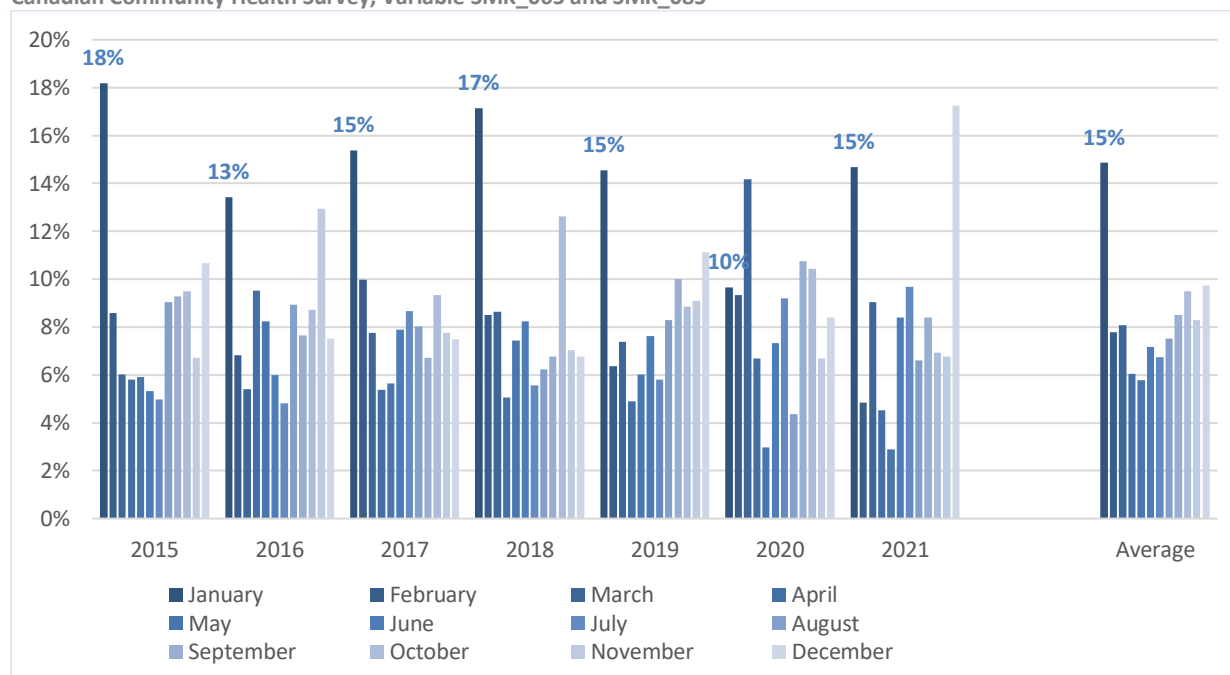


Table 3: Number of individuals who quit smoking in the past year, by month in which they quit

Canadian Community Health Survey, Variable SMK_065 and SMK_085

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
January	78,500	57,000	58,500	64,500	64,000	31,000	45,500	57,000
February	37,000	29,000	38,000	32,000	28,000	30,000	15,000	29,857
March	26,000	23,000	29,500	32,500	32,500	45,500	28,000	31,000
April	25,000	40,500	20,500	19,000	21,500	21,500	14,000	23,143
May	25,500	35,000	21,500	28,000	26,500	9,500	9,000	22,143
June	23,000	25,500	30,000	31,000	33,500	23,500	26,000	27,500
July	21,500	20,500	33,000	21,000	25,500	29,500	30,000	25,857
August	39,000	38,000	30,500	23,500	36,500	14,000	20,500	28,857
September	40,000	32,500	25,500	25,500	44,000	34,500	26,000	32,571
October	41,000	37,000	35,500	47,500	39,000	33,500	21,500	36,429
November	29,000	55,000	29,500	26,500	40,000	21,500	21,000	31,786
December	46,000	32,000	28,500	25,500	49,000	27,000	53,500	37,357
unknown	7,500	13,500	8,500	5,500	11,500	7,500	4,500	
Number who quit	439,000	438,500	389,000	382,000	451,500	328,500	314,500	391,857

Month in which former daily smokers quit.

Figure 4: Month in which former daily smokers quit smoking daily, CCHS 2022

Canadian Community Health Survey, 2022 Variable SPU_25A

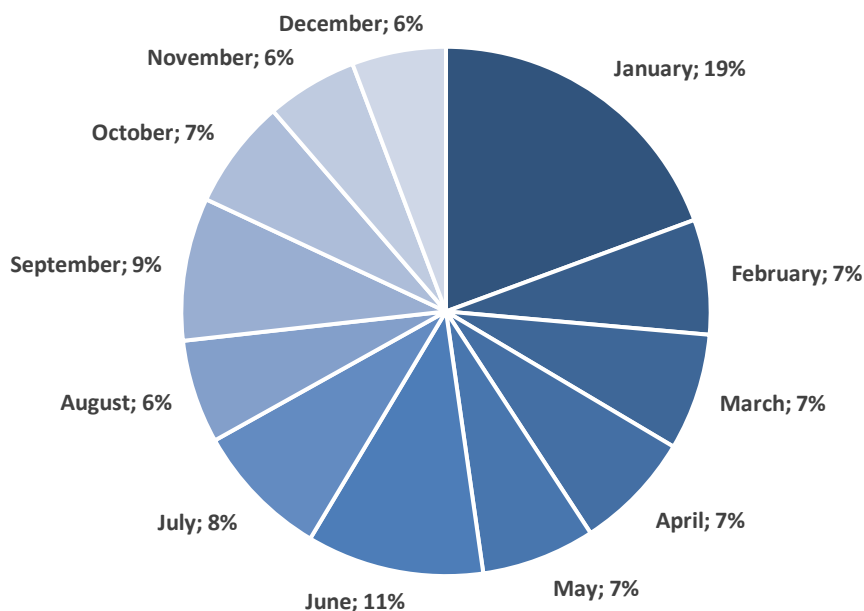


Table 4: Number of individuals who quit smoking, by month in which they quit, CCHS 2022

Canadian Community Health Survey, 2022 Variable SPU_10A, SPU_25A and SPU_35A

Month in which they quit	Former Occasional smokers	former daily smokers	
		Quit smoking when quit from daily	Did not quit smoking entirely when quit daily
January	122,000	984,500	25,000
February	27,500	357,000	7,000
March	27,500	362,000	7,500
April	31,000	369,000	12,500
May	35,500	353,000	9,000
June	46,500	550,000	15,000
July	40,000	423,000	13,000
August	42,000	321,500	15,000
September	46,500	443,500	15,500
October	25,000	341,000	15,500
November	24,000	283,500	10,000
December	28,500	292,000	10,000
Not Stated	311,000	1,764,500	1,238,500

Length of time since quitting.

Figure 4: Number of Canadians aged 12+ who quit smoking, by the length of time since they quit, 2003 to 2021

Canadian Community Health Survey, Variable SMK_060 and SMK_080 (Does not include 'Experimenters').
Information for 2022 is not available in the Data Dictionary

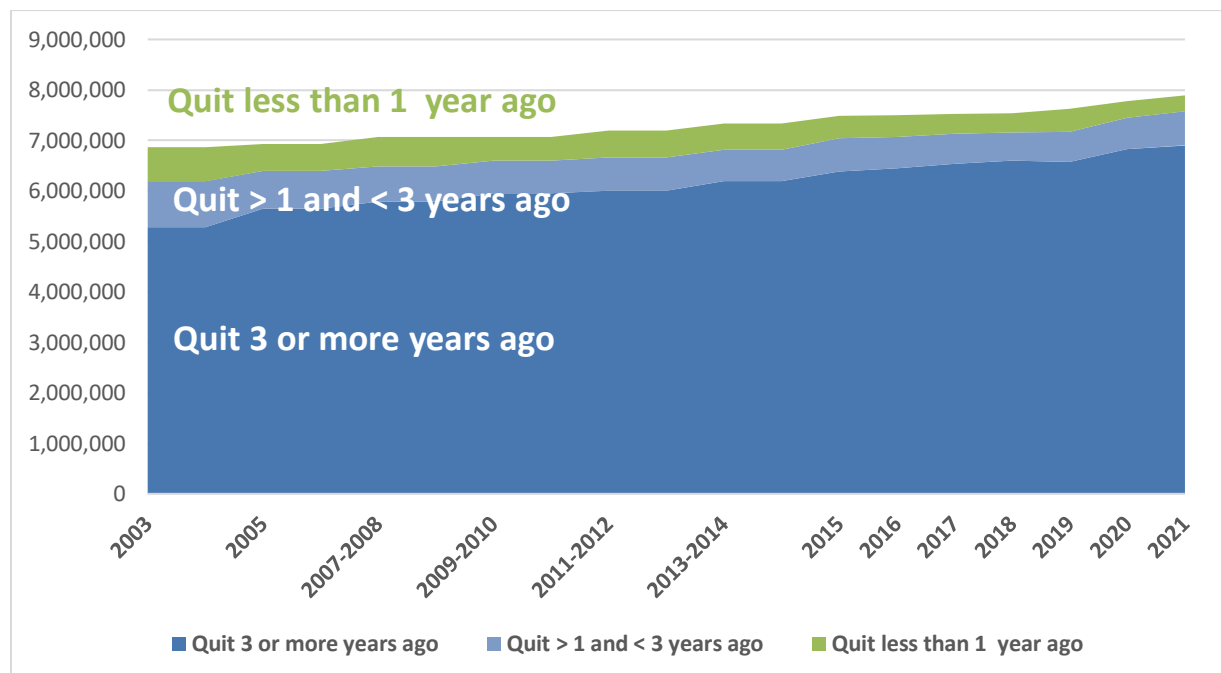


Table 4A: Number of Canadians aged 12+ who quit smoking, by the length of time since they quit (2015-2021)

Canadian Community Health Survey, Master File Data Dictionary (rounded counts), Variable SMK_060 and SMK_080 (Does not include 'Experimenters').

Information for 2022 is not available in the Data Dictionary

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Quit less than 1 year ago	439,000	438,500	389,000	382,000	451,500	328,500	314,500
Quit > 1 and < 3 years ago	660,000	624,000	605,500	559,000	599,500	626,000	679,500
Quit 3 or more years ago	6,384,500	6,442,500	6,531,500	6,601,500	6,576,000	6,824,000	6,898,000
Not stated/unknown	18,000	21,000	14,500	29,500	15,500	11,000	8,500
Total Former Smokers	7,501,500	7,526,000	7,540,500	7,572,000	7,642,500	7,789,500	7,900,500

Table 4B: Number of Canadians aged 12+ who quit smoking, by the length of time since they quit (2003-2014)

Canadian Community Health Survey, Public Use Micro File, Variable SMKGSTP (Does not include 'Experimenters').

	2003	2005	2007-2008	2009-2010	2011-2012	2013-2014
Quit less than 1 year ago	679,900	530,300	583,200	475,900	529,400	513,400
Quit > 1 and < 3 years ago	909,600	744,600	687,800	640,300	651,800	629,900
Quit 3 or more years ago	5,278,700	5,649,700	5,793,100	5,954,400	6,009,100	6,187,500
Not stated/unknown	63,800	59,500	65,500	74,200	80,700	83,800
Total Former Smokers	6,932,000	6,984,000	7,129,000	7,144,900	7,270,900	7,414,600

Figure 5: Number of past-year quitters and percentage of past-year quitters to remaining current smokers, CCHS 2003-2021.

Canadian Community Health Survey, Public Use Micro File and Master File Data Directory, Variables SMKGSTP, SMK_060, SMK-080 and SMKDVSTY (Does not include 'Experimenters').
 Information for 2022 is not available in the Data Dictionary

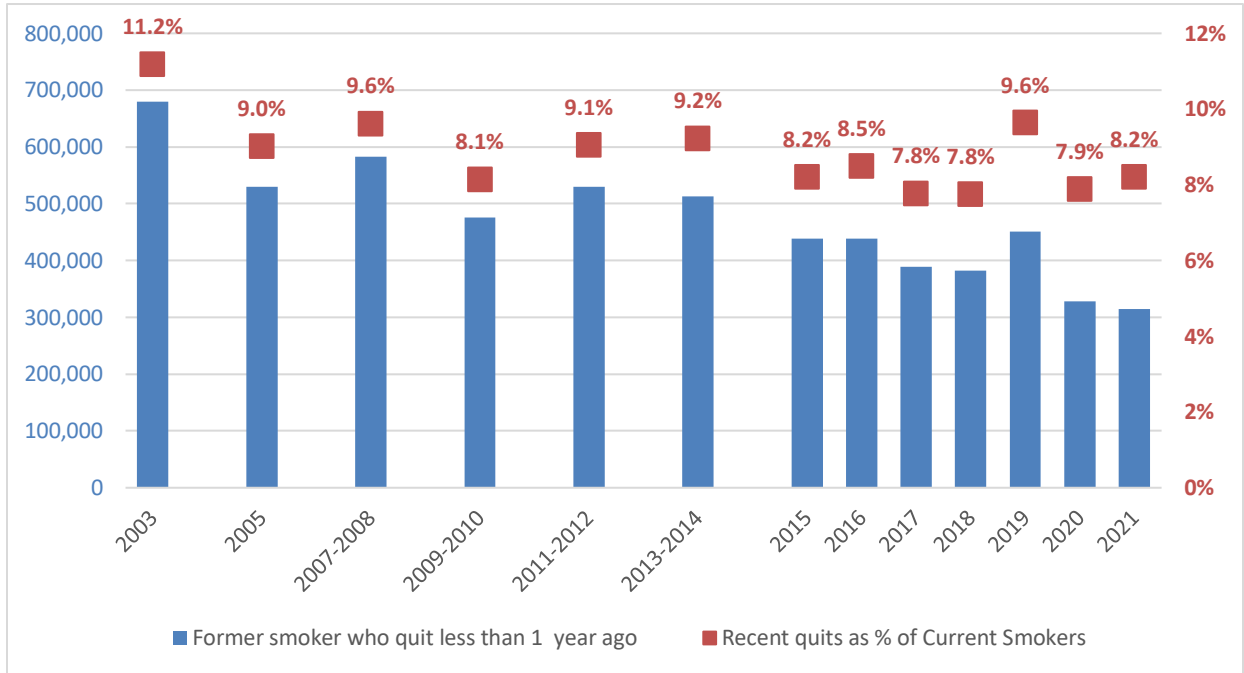
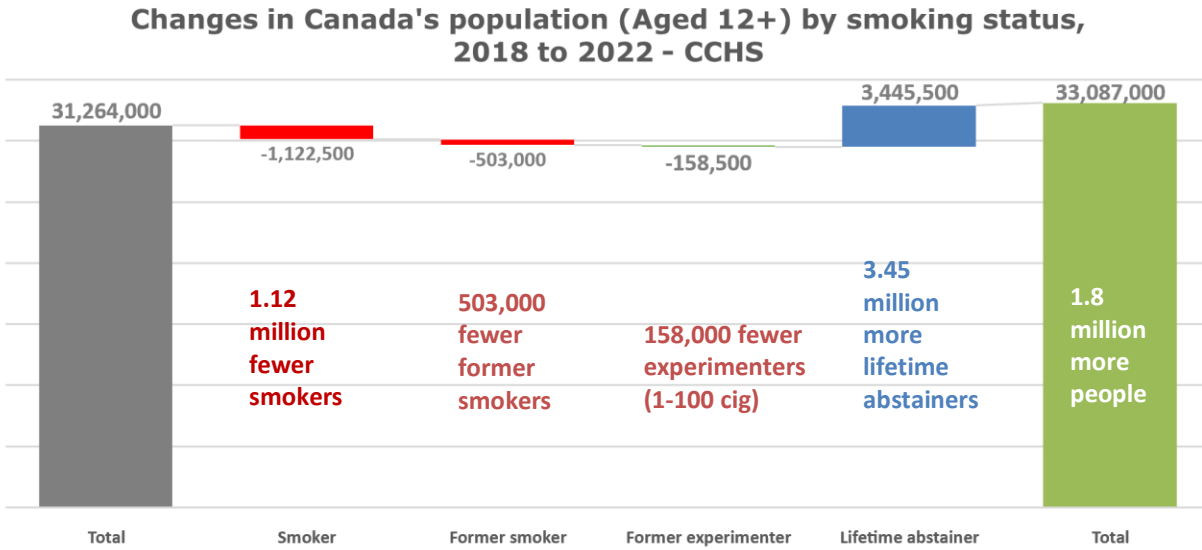


Figure 6: Observed change in Canadian population (aged 12+) by smoking status

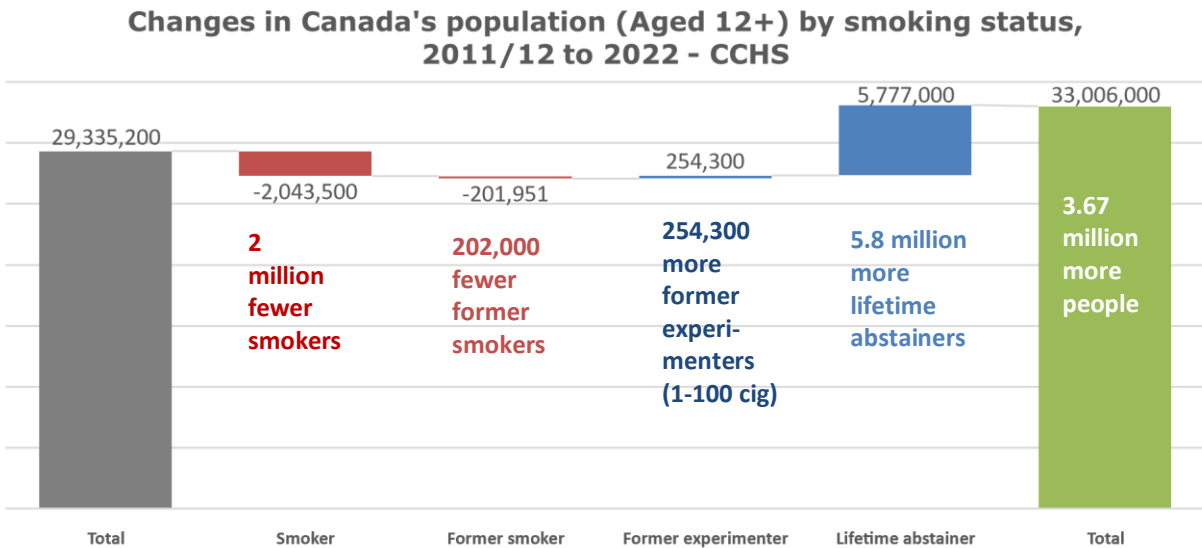
A. Five years - 2018 to 2022.

Canadian Community Health Survey, Variable SMKDVSTY



A. Ten years - 2012 to 2022.

Canadian Community Health Survey, Variable SMKDVSTY



Background on the Canadian Community Health Survey data

The Canadian Community Health Survey has been conducted by Statistics Canada since 2001, and on an annual basis since 2009. As a result of changes to the survey design, caution is recommended when comparing results between periods with different survey designs. A major design change was made in 2015 and again in 2022.

The method (mode) of collecting data also changed over the period. After 2015, the survey shifted increasingly from in-person to telephone interviews. In-person interviews were suspended after 2020 and internet surveys were used starting in 2022.

The survey covers 97% of Canadians over 11 years of age. Those not included in the survey are persons living in Indigenous settlements, two northern Quebec health regions, the military, foster children and institutionalized people.¹ The annual surveys include more than 60,000 individuals with response rates over 50% (e.g. 2015—2016 response rate was 59.5%).

The survey includes both questions that are asked across Canada and also questions that are asked only in certain provinces (at the request of those governments). At a national level, questions on tobacco use were restricted to cigarette smoking until 2021, although questions on ‘tobacco alternatives’, including the use of e-cigarettes, were asked in some provinces in earlier cycles (e.g. 2017-2018).

Survey results are used by Statistics Canada to provide annual data on key indicators (Health characteristics, annual estimates. Table 13-10-0096-01)². For smoking, the indicators made public are: (a) Current smoker, daily or occasional and (b) Current smoker, daily. This data is disaggregated by age, sex, and location.

Other indicators on smoking-related behaviour are not proactively released in the form of tables, but can be obtained from Statistics Canada through:

- (a) the Public Use Microfile (PUMF) which is released for a two-year period. In November 2023, the most recent PUMF available is for the survey conducted in 2017-2018.
- (b) the Data Dictionaries made available by Statistics Canada for each year or for two-year periods (these provides rounded estimates for each variable at a national level).
- (c) purchase of custom tabulations from Statistics Canada
- (d) use by authorized individuals of the master or share files through licensed portals (authorized individuals are generally University-based researchers).

References

- 1 Statistics Canada. Canadian Community Health Survey – Annual Component <https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&Id=1383236>
- 2 Statistics Canada. Health characteristics, annual estimates. Table 13-10-0096-01 <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1310009601>