Smoking and Vaping in South Australia – Key Statistics 2025

NCETA
National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction

SMOKING PREVALENCE AMONG SOUTH AUSTRALIANS AGED 15+, 2025

	Daily smoking (%)	95% CI	All smoking[a] (%)	95% CI
Males	9.0	± 1.5	13.5	± 1.8
Females	6.0	± 1.2	7.4	± 1.3
15-29 years	5.1	± 1.7	12.3	± 2.5
30-44 years	7.8	± 2.0	10.1	± 2.3
45-59 years	12.1	± 2.4	14.1	± 2.6
60+ years	5.6	± 1.5	6.5	± 1.6
Total (15+ years)	7.5	± 0.9	10.4	± 1.1

[a] defined as those who reported smoking daily, weekly or less than weekly. Note: standardised to 2021 population.

SMOKING PREVALENCE OVER TIME

Age (years)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Daily smoking (%)										
15+	12.7	13.7	8.4	9.7	10.6	9.6	8.1	8.7	8.6	**7.5**
(95% CI)	± 1.4	± 1.5	± 1.0	± 1.1	± 1.1	± 1.1	± 1.0	± 1.0	± 1.0	± 0.9
15-29	11.2	12.2	4.5	7.9	11.3	9.7	4.8	7.2	6.9	**5.1**
(95% CI)	± 2.7	± 3.0	± 1.7	± 2.3	± 2.4	± 2.5	± 1.9	± 2.6	± 2.0	± 1.7
30-59	16.0	18.7	13.0	13.6	12.8	11.8	10.8	11.0	10.2	**9.9**
(95% CI)	± 2.3	± 2.4	± 1.7	± 1.7	± 1.7	± 1.6	± 1.5	± 1.5	± 1.6	± 1.6
All smoking (%)										
15+	14.6	15.9	11.8	12.4	13.4	11.9	11.1	10.4	11.3	**10.4**
(95% CI)	± 1.5	± 1.6	± 1.2	± 1.2	± 1.2	± 1.2	± 1.1	± 1.1	± 1.1	± 1.1
15-29	13.1	15.7	10.3	11.4	15.9	12.6	9.6	8.7	11.9	**12.3**
(95% CI)	± 2.9	± 3.4	± 2.5	± 2.8	± 2.8	± 2.8	± 2.6	± 2.8	± 2.5	± 2.5
30-59	18.6	20.9	17.0	16.7	16.0	14.5	14.3	13.3	13.1	**12.1**
(95% CI)	± 2.4	± 2.5	± 1.9	± 1.8	± 1.9	± 1.8	± 1.7	± 1.7	± 1.8	± 1.7

Note: historical data have been updated to reflect standardisation to the 2021 population.
There were no statistically significant differences between 2024 and 2025.

DEATHS ATTRIBUTABLE TO TOBACCO, 2018

There are approximately 1,413 tobacco-attributable deaths annually in South Australia and 20,482 across Australia (based on 2018 data; updated data not available).

Source: Extrapolated from Australian Burden of Disease Study: Impact and causes of illness and death in Australia, 2018. Table 6.2. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. doi:10.25816/5ps1-j259, as reported by the 2024 *Key Statistics*.

SMOKING AND VAPING AMONG SA SCHOOL CHILDREN, 2022/23

In 2022/23, 3.3% of school students aged 12-17 were current smokers (i.e., had smoked in the past week) and 15.0% had vaped at least once during the past month. Updated data are not available for 2025; please refer to the 2024 *Key Statistics* for a more detailed summary.

Source: Australian Secondary Students' Alcohol and Drug survey 2022/23 Topline results.

SMOKING IN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES, 2022/23

In 2022/23, 35.3% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples aged 18 years and over (age-standardised) in South Australia were daily smokers (32.5% across Australia).

Source: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, Australia, 2022-23. Australian Bureau of Statistics.

VAPING PREVALENCE AMONG SOUTH AUSTRALIANS AGED 15+, 2025

	Daily vaping (%)	95% CI	All vaping[a] (%)	95% CI
Males	3.0	± 0.9	7.4	± 1.3
Females	2.6	± 0.8	5.5	± 1.1
15-29 years	6.2	± 1.8	17.4	± 2.9
30-44 years	3.2	± 1.3	5.8	± 1.8
45-59 years	2.6	± 1.2	4.5	± 1.6
60+ years	0.2	± 0.3	0.3	± 0.4
Total (15+ years)	2.8	± 0.6	6.4	± 0.9

[a] defined as those who reported vaping daily, weekly or less than weekly. Note: standardised to 2021 population.

VAPING PREVALENCE OVER TIME

Age (years)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Daily vaping (%)										
15+	0.5	0.6	1.2	0.7	0.9	1.4	1.8	2.0	1.7	**2.8**
(95% CI)	± 0.3	± 0.3	± 0.4	± 0.3	± 0.3	± 0.4	± 0.5	± 0.5	± 0.5	± 0.6
15-29	0.1	0.6	2.2	0.0	0.9	2.9	3.7	2.3	3.3	**6.2**
(95% CI)	± 0.3	± 0.7	± 1.2	± 0.0	± 0.7	± 1.4	± 1.7	± 1.5	± 1.4	± 1.8
30-59	1.0	0.7	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.8	3.0	1.9	**2.9**
(95% CI)	± 0.6	± 0.5	± 0.6	± 0.6	± 0.6	± 0.6	± 0.7	± 0.8	± 0.7	± 0.9
All vaping (%)										
15+	1.2	1.0	2.1	1.9	2.6	2.1	3.6	6.7	4.3	**6.4**
(95% CI)	± 0.5	± 0.4	± 0.5	± 0.5	± 0.6	± 0.5	± 0.7	± 0.9	± 0.7	± 0.9
15-29	1.3	1.0	2.4	2.0	3.3	4.8	8.4	15.1	10.8	**17.4**
(95% CI)	± 1.0	± 0.9	± 1.3	± 1.2	± 1.3	± 1.8	± 2.4	± 3.6	± 2.4	± 2.9
30-59	1.9	1.1	3.1	2.8	3.6	1.5	3.1	6.7	3.6	**5.2**
(95% CI)	± 0.9	± 0.6	± 0.9	± 0.8	± 1.0	± 0.6	± 0.9	± 1.2	± 1.0	± 1.2

Note: historical data have been updated to reflect standardisation to the 2021 population.
Red text indicates statistically significant differences between 2024 and 2025.

VAPING STATUS BY SMOKING STATUS, 2025

In 2025, 2.5% of the South Australian population were estimated to be current dual users of tobacco and e-cigarettes.

	Smokers n=308 % (95% CI)	Ex-smokers n=783 % (95% CI)	Never smokers n=1902 % (95% CI)	Total n=2993 % (95% CI)
Current vaping[a]	24.0 (± 4.8)	7.0 (± 1.8)	2.9 (± 0.8)	6.1 (± 0.9)
Former vaping[b]	11.7 (± 3.6)	5.4 (± 1.6)	0.5 (± 0.3)	2.9 (± 0.6)
Tried vaping[c]	24.0 (± 4.8)	11.7 (± 2.3)	8.7 (± 1.3)	11.1 (± 1.1)
Never vaped	40.3 (± 5.5)	75.9 (± 3.0)	87.9 (± 1.5)	79.9 (± 1.4)

Note: figures are not standardised and may differ to standardised results. [a] vaped daily, weekly, or less than weekly; [b] Vaped more than 100 times but were not current users; [c] Tried vapes on less than 100 occasions and were not current users.

Note: Small variations in overall prevalence estimates may occur across analyses due to rounding of weighted data. Red dotted lines indicate change of data source from the SA Health Omnibus Survey (a face-to-face survey) to the SA Population Health Survey Module System (a phone survey). Estimates of smoking prevalence from phone surveys are approximately 3% lower than those derived from face-to-face surveys, and this should be considered when interpreting results.

Citation: Substance Use Research & Evaluation Program (SURE). *Smoking and Vaping in South Australia – Key Statistics 2025.* National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction, Flinders Health and Medical Research Institute, Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia. March 2026.
Data for 2025 (on p.1-2 only of this report) and prior years were analysed by the Health Policy Centre at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), and may differ to values reported elsewhere.

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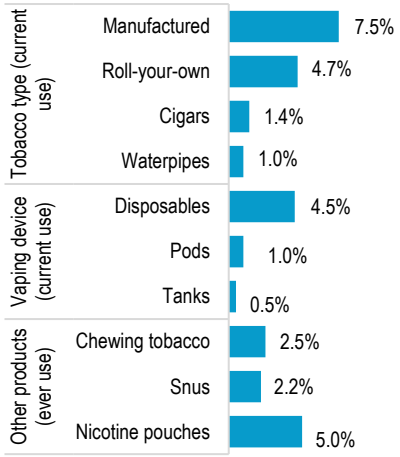
QUIT ATTEMPTS, 2025

The majority of South Australians who were current smokers had made a previous attempt to quit smoking (74.9%); 39.5% tried to quit in the past year and 51.4% intended to try to quit in the next six months. Among South Australians who currently vaped, 53.6% had ever made a previous quit attempt and 38.7% had tried to quit in the past year.

TOBACCO AND E-CIGARETTE PRODUCT USE, 2025

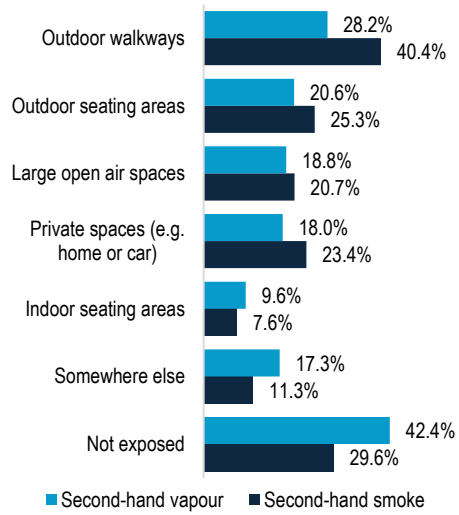
In 2025, manufactured cigarettes were the most common tobacco product (used by 7.5% of South Australians) while disposables were the most common vaping product (used by 4.5%).



Note. Vaping device options were mutually exclusive while multiple tobacco types and other products could be selected.

EXPOSURE TO SECOND-HAND SMOKE AND VAPOUR, 2025

In 2025, 69.8% of the South Australian population reported that they had been exposed to second-hand smoke in the past two weeks and 57.3% were exposed to second-hand vapour.



USE OF ILLICIT TOBACCO PRODUCTS, 2025

In 2025, 47.3% of current smokers reported any use of illicit tobacco products (i.e., cigarettes or tobacco likely to be foreign, counterfeit, or smuggled) in the past 6 months (27.8% frequent use, 19.5% occasional use).

POLICY SUPPORT, 2025

In 2025, the majority of South Australians supported additional tobacco control policies including: greatly reducing the amount of nicotine in cigarettes and tobacco products to make them less addictive (81.6% approval); a ban on selling tobacco/e-cigarettes within 150m of a school (81.1% approval); preventing anyone under the age of 18 from ever being sold tobacco in their lifetime (77.4% approval); limiting the number of places selling cigarettes and tobacco (71.3%); and a ban on smoking in all outdoor drinking areas of pubs and clubs (65.7% approval).

SMOKING AND VAPING PREVALENCE AMONG PRIORITY GROUPS

Both daily smoking and current vaping were more prevalent among people living in disadvantaged areas and among those with a mental health condition.

DAILY SMOKING AMONG PRIORITY GROUPS, 2021-2025

	2021 % (95% CI)	2022 % (95% CI)	2023 % (95% CI)	2024 % (95% CI)	2025 % (95% CI)
Level of disadvantage	n=3000	n=3001	n=3001	n=2995	n=3002
Two most disadvantaged quintiles	14.2 (± 2.0)	11.0 (± 1.8)	14.2 (± 2.0)	14.0 (± 2.0)	**9.8** (± 1.7)
Most disadvantaged	16.5 (± 2.8)	11.9 (± 2.4)	16.7 (± 2.8)	14.6 (± 2.8)	**9.9** (± 2.2)
Second quintile	11.3 (± 2.8)	9.8 (± 2.5)	10.7 (± 2.7)	13.2 (± 3.0)	**9.8** (± 2.7)
Third quintile	11.1 (± 2.6)	6.7 (± 2.1)	6.8 (± 2.1)	6.8 (± 2 .0)	**7.5** (± 2.1)
Fourth quintile	6.7 (± 2.1)	7.7 (± 2.2)	6.1 (± 1.9)	5.3 (± 1.8)	**7.2** (± 2.2)
Least disadvantaged	4.8 (± 1.6)	4.8 (± 1.6)	4.1 (± 1.5)	3.8 (± 1.4)	**4.2** (± 1.5)
Mental health condition	n=2999	n=2999	n=3004	n=2996	n=2997
None	8.6 (± 1.1)	6.8 (± 1.0)	7.8 (± 1.1)	7.2 (± 1.0)	**6.6** (± 1.0)
General	16.9 (± 3.3)	14.7 (± 3.0)	12.9 (± 2.6)	15.0 (± 3.4)	**11.1** (± 2.7)
Severe	16.7 (± 11.3)	21.3 (± 9.3)	23.8 (± 10.5)	36.2 (± 11.4)	**27.8** (± 10.3)
General or severe	16.6 (± 3.2)	14.5 (± 2.9)	13.6 (± 2.7)	16.2 (± 3.4)	**12.3** (± 2.8)
Area of residence	n=3001	n=3000	n=3004	n=2995	n=3002
Metropolitan Adelaide	8.6 (± 1.2)	7.3 (± 1.1)	8.8 (± 1.2)	7.6 (± 1.1)	**7.1** (± 1.0)
Country South Australia	14.0 (± 2.4)	10.8 (± 2.2)	9.8 (± 2.0)	11.5 (± 2.4)	**9.1** (± 2.1)

Note: Historical data have been updated to reflect the 2021 Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage.
Red text indicates statistically significant differences between 2024 and 2025.

CURRENT VAPING AMONG PRIORITY GROUPS, 2021-2025

	2021 % (95% CI)	2022 % (95% CI)	2023 % (95% CI)	2024 % (95% CI)	2025 % (95% CI)
Level of disadvantage	n=3006	n=3002	n=2998	n=2991	n=2999
Most disadvantaged	2.6 (± 1.2)	5.4 (± 1.7)	6.2 (± 1.8)	4.3 (± 1.6)	**8.5** (± 2.1)
Second quintile	1.6 (± 1.1)	4.1 (± 1.7)	9.0 (± 2.5)	3.7 (± 1.7)	**6.2** (± 2.2)
Third quintile	2.0 (± 1.1)	2.1 (± 1.2)	5.7 (± 1.9)	4.3 (± 1.6)	**5.2** (± 1.8)
Fourth quintile	2.0 (± 1.2)	2.2 (± 1.2)	3.7 (± 1.5)	5.1 (± 1.8)	**4.6** (± 1.8)
Least disadvantaged	1.9 (± 1.0)	2.1 (± 1.1)	6.3 (± 1.9)	3.8 (± 1.4)	**5.7** (± 1.7)
Mental health condition	n=3006	n=3002	n=2999	n=2990	n=2993
None	2.0 (± 0.5)	2.5 (± 0.6)	5.6 (± 0.9)	3.5 (± 0.7)	**5.1** (± 0.9)
General	2.2 (± 1.3)	6.3 (± 2.0)	7.6 (± 2.1)	7.4 (± 2.5)	**11.1** (± 2.7)
Severe	4.8 (± 6.4)	5.3 (± 5.0)	15.6 (± 8.9)	10.6 (± 7.4)	**16.7** (± 8.6)
General or severe	2.4 (± 1.3)	6.3 (± 2.0)	8.2 (± 2.1)	7.9 (± 2.5)	**11.2** (± 2.7)
Area of residence	n=3005	n=3002	n=2999	n=2990	n=2999
Metropolitan Adelaide	2.4 (± 0.6)	3.4 (± 0.8)	7.0 (± 1.1)	4.3 (± 0.8)	**6.1** (± 1.0)
Country South Australia	1.1 (± 0.7)	2.8 (± 1.1)	3.8 (± 1.3)	4.0 (± 1.5)	**6.5** (± 1.8)

Note: Historical data have been updated to reflect the 2021 Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage.
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