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# Tobacco smoking - start age (daily smoking)

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**Important note: This is an archived metadata standard from the AIHW Knowledgebase. For current metadata standards and related information please access METeOR, the AIHW's Metadata Online Registry at <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au>**

## *Identifying and Definitional Attributes*

Data Dictionary: NHDD  
Knowledgebase ID: 000409                      Version number: 1  
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT  
Registration Authority: NHIMG                      Admin status: SUPERSEDED  
Effective date: 01-MAR-05  
Definition: Age (in years) at which a person who has ever been a daily smoker first started to smoke daily.  
Context: Public health and health care: Start-age may be used to derive duration of smoking, which is a much stronger predictor of the risks associated with smoking than is the total amount of tobacco smoked over time.

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## *Relational and Representational Attributes*

Datatype: Numeric  
Representational form: QUANTITATIVE VALUE  
Representation layout: NN  
Minimum Size: 2  
Maximum Size: 2  
Data Domain: 99                      Not stated/inadequately described  
                    NOVAL                      Age in completed years  
Guide For Use: This information is relevant only if a person currently smokes daily or has smoked daily in the past.  
Collection Methods: The recommended standard for collecting this information is the Standard Questions on the Use of Tobacco Among Adults - interviewer administered (Question 7) and self-administered (Question 4) versions. The questions cover persons aged 18+. Available from the National Centre for Monitoring Cardiovascular Disease at the AIHW, telephone (02) 6244 1000.  
Related metadata: is used in the derivation of Tobacco smoking - duration (daily smoking) version 1  
                          is qualified by Tobacco smoking - ever daily use version 1

is used in conjunction with Tobacco smoking - quit age (daily smoking) version 1  
is qualified by Date of birth version 4

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### *Administrative Attributes*

Source Document: Standard Questions on the Use of Tobacco Among Adults (1998)

Source Organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

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Comments: Where the information is collected by survey and the sample permits, population estimates should be presented by sex and age groups. The recommended age groups are: <10, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20-24, 25-29 and 30. Summary statistics may need to be adjusted for age and other relevant variables.

It is recommended that in surveys of smoking, data on age, sex and other socio-demographic variables should be collected.

It is also recommended that when smoking is investigated in relation to health, data on other risk factors including pregnancy status, physical activity, overweight and obesity, and alcohol consumption should be collected.

### *Data Element Links*

*Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element*

NHIM   Lifestyle characteristic

*Data Agreements which include this Data Element*

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