

# Smoking

## 2021 CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT FACT SHEET

### Why do smoking rates remain a concern on PEI?

Smoking can lead to serious health problems such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and lung cancer. The percent of people living with COPD has been increasing in PEI and Canada, but the rate of increase is much higher in PEI (Figure 1). The rates of new lung cancer diagnoses in PEI have been higher than the Canadian rates for the past 10 years (Figure 2). These issues have broad and lasting impacts on individuals, families, and communities.

*In 2017, flavored tobacco products were banned to help reduce the appeal of tobacco, especially amongst youth*

### How does PEI's rates of smoking compare to the rest of Canada?

While the rate of daily smoking has been decreasing in Canada, it has stayed the same in PEI. The rate of daily smoking has typically been higher in PEI than in Canada; in 2017/18, 13.4% of PEI residents reported that they smoked daily compared to 10.9% of Canadians. (Figure 3)

*In 2020, the minimum age to purchase tobacco and electronic smoking devices increased from 19 to 21 years of age*

### Who is most likely to smoke on PEI?

Daily smoking was more common among males than females (Figure 4). Meaningful differences in daily smoking were not detected based upon age.

Figure 1.  
Prevalence of COPD, PEI and Canada, Aged 35+, 2009–2018

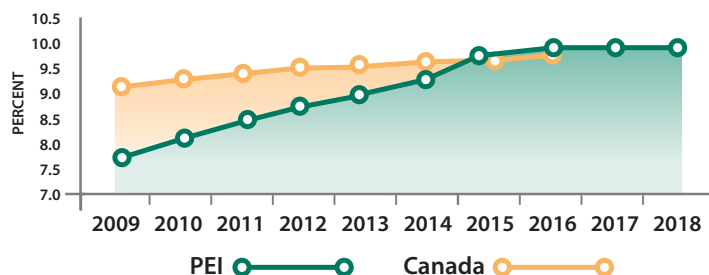


Figure 2.  
Lung Cancer Incidence Rates Per 100,000 Persons, PEI and Canada (Excluding Quebec), 2008–2018

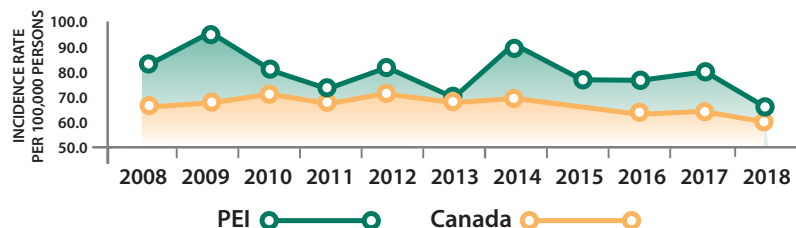


Figure 3.  
Self-reported daily smoking, PEI and Canada, aged 12+, 2007–2018

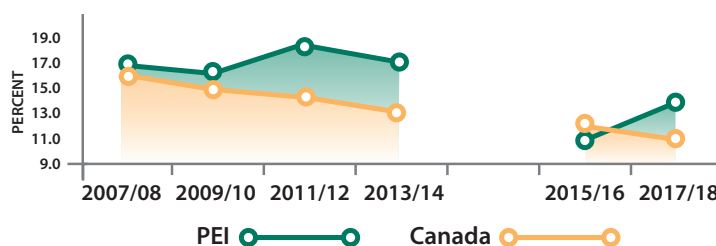
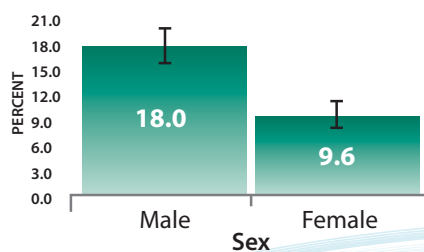


Figure 4.  
Self Reported Daily Smoking by Sex, PEI, 2017/18.



### More Information:

[2021 CPHO Report](#)  
[Smoking Cessation Program](#)  
[Lung Association of Nova Scotia and PEI](#)



LIVE WELL PEI  
together we can