

Thematic Household Survey Report - Report No. 79

- Pattern of Smoking

(Survey period: May - August 2023)

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- Note(s)
1. This report presents the key findings of the Thematic Household Survey on pattern of smoking in respect of Hong Kong population.

2. For the survey period of each survey year, please refer to the [Explanatory Notes](#) (Section 6).

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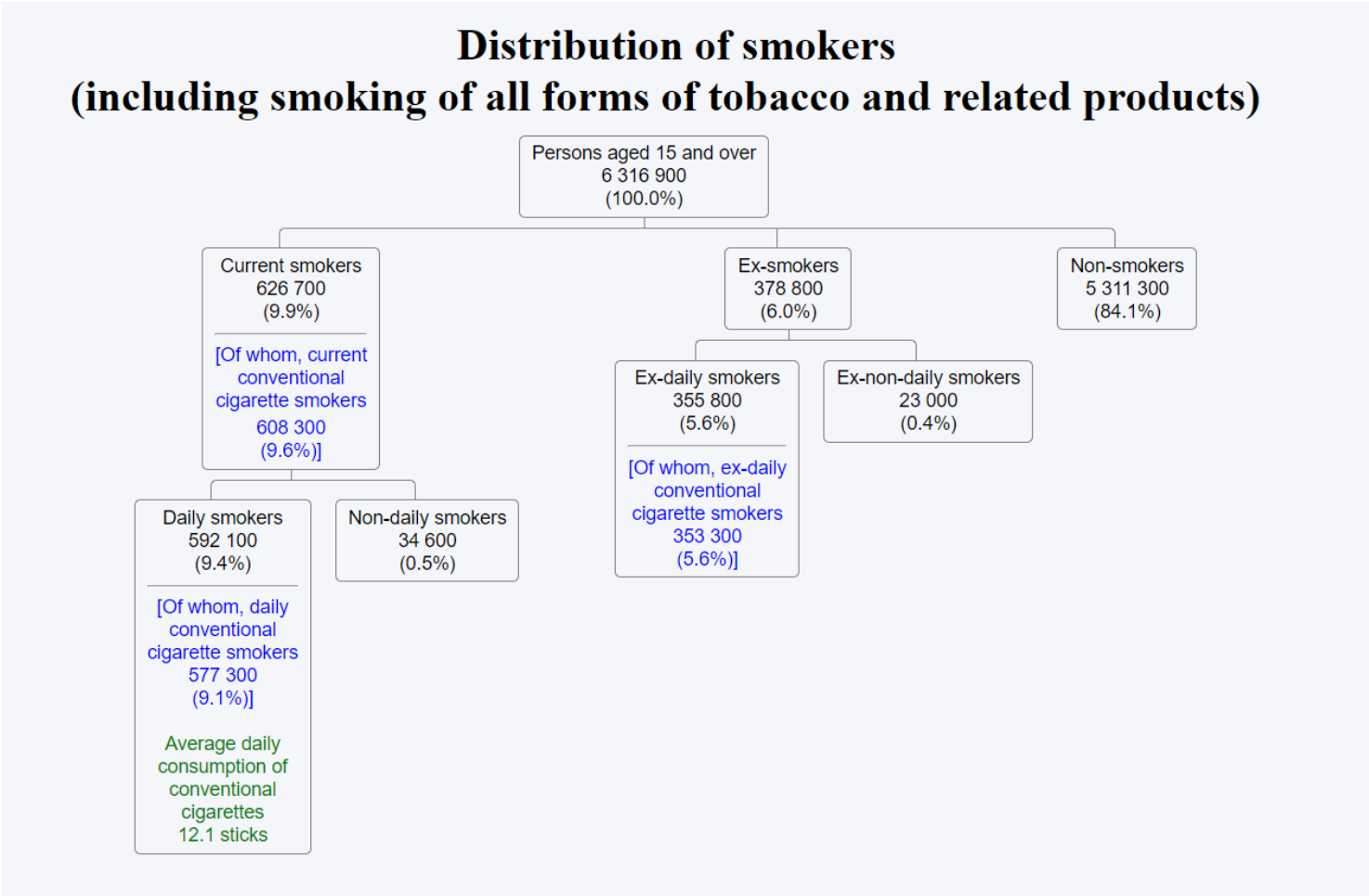
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## 2. Pattern of Smoking

### Type of smokers

- In 2023, there were some 592 100 daily smokers and some 355 800 ex-daily smokers who previously had a daily smoking habit.
- Daily smokers accounted for 9.4% of all persons aged 15 and over in 2023, whereas the corresponding figure in 2021 was 9.8%.
- On the other hand, ex-daily smokers accounted for 5.6% of all persons aged 15 and over in 2023, while the corresponding figure in 2021 was 5.0%.
- Daily conventional cigarette smokers (577 300 persons) accounted for 9.1% of all persons aged 15 and over in 2023, compared with the corresponding figures of 581 500 persons and 9.5% in 2021.
- Ex-daily conventional cigarette smokers (353 300 persons) accounted for 5.6% of all persons aged 15 and over in 2023, compared with the corresponding figures of 305 900 persons and 5.0% in 2021.

**Table 2.1 : Daily smokers / ex-daily smokers by form of tobacco and related products consumed daily**

Survey year		2021			2023		
Age group		≥15			≥15		
		Number of persons			Number of persons		
		No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)	Rate (%) (1)	No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)	Rate (%) (1)
Type of smoker	Form of tobacco and related products (2)						
Daily smokers	Conventional cigarettes	581.5	96.7	9.5	577.3	97.5	9.1
	Heated tobacco products	8.4	1.4	0.1	3.4	0.6	0.1
	E-cigarettes	17.5	2.9	0.3	11.6	2.0	0.2
	Others (3)	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	3.6	0.6	0.1
	Overall	601.3	100.0	9.8	592.1	100.0	9.4
Ex-daily smokers	Conventional cigarettes	305.9	99.8	5.0	353.3	99.3	5.6
	Heated tobacco products	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
	E-cigarettes	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	2.9	0.8	[-\$32]
	Others (3)	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	3.9	1.1	0.1
	Overall	306.6	100.0	5.0	355.8	100.0	5.6

1 As a percentage of all persons aged 15 and over.

2 Multiple answers were allowed.

3 Including cigar, hand-rolled cigarette, pipe-smoking, snuff/snus and water pipe.

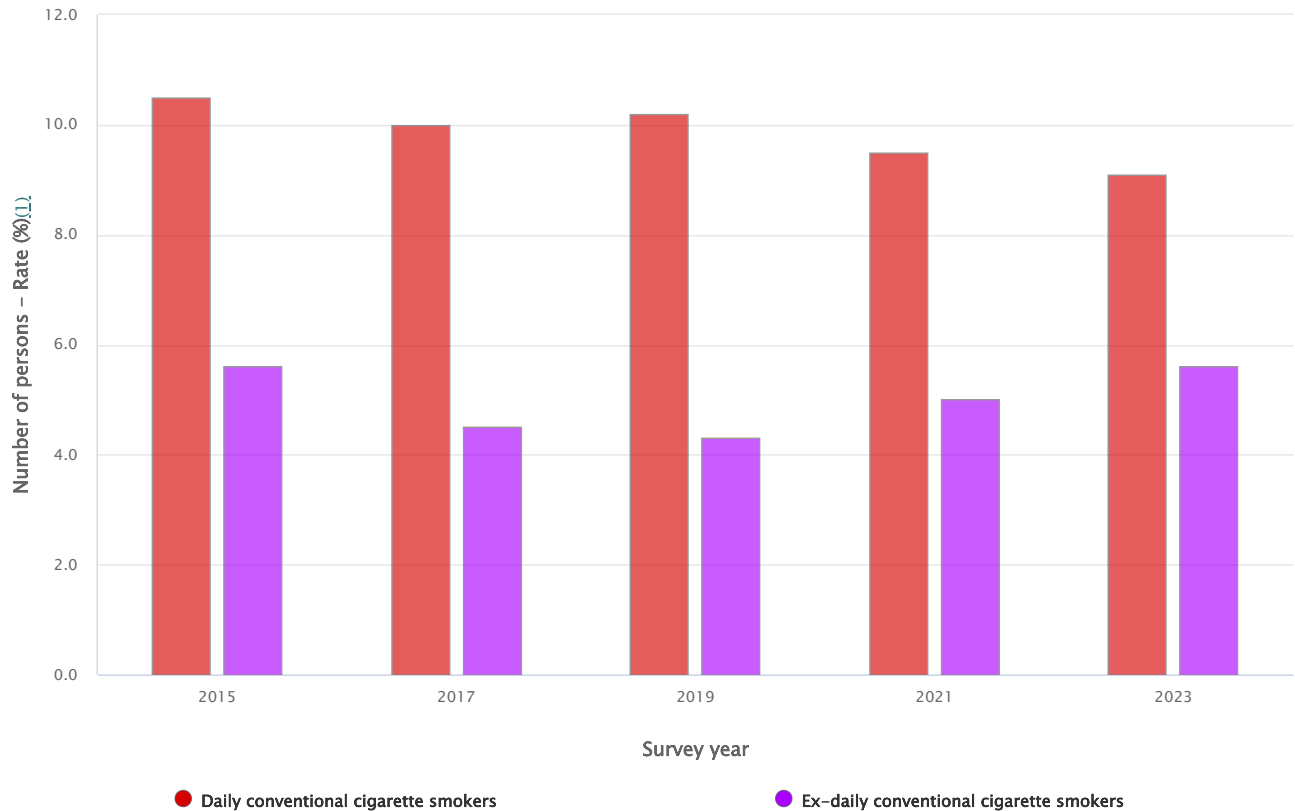
[\*7] Figure is not released due to relatively large sampling error.

[-\$32] Less than 0.05%

**Smoking pattern of daily conventional cigarette smokers**

- The percentage of daily conventional cigarette smokers among all persons aged 15 and over showed a declining trend over the past two decades, dropping from 14.4% in 2003 to 9.1% in 2023.
- Conversely, the percentage of ex-daily conventional cigarette smokers maintained at around 3% to 6% since 2000.
- Daily conventional cigarette smoking was more common among males and middle-aged persons.
- Daily conventional cigarette smokers consumed an average of 12.1 sticks of conventional cigarettes per day in 2023, while the corresponding figure in 2021 was 12.7 sticks.

**Chart 2.2 : Rate of daily conventional cigarette smokers and ex-daily conventional cigarette smokers**



1 As a percentage of all persons aged 15 and over in the respective survey years.

**Table 2.3 : Daily conventional cigarette smokers and ex-daily conventional cigarette smokers**

Age group	≥15			
Type of smoker	Daily smokers		Ex-daily smokers	
Form of tobacco and related products	Conventional cigarettes		Conventional cigarettes	
	Number of persons		Number of persons	
	No. ('000)	Rate (%) (1)	No. ('000)	Rate (%) (1)
Survey year				
2000	692.5	12.4	210.9	3.8
2003	818.2	14.4	151.2	2.7
2005	793.2	14.0	251.9	4.5
2008	676.9	11.8	291.8	5.1
2010	657.0	11.1	285.9	4.8
2012	645.0	10.7	346.4	5.8
2015	641.3	10.5	340.7	5.6
2017	615.0	10.0	275.3	4.5
2019	637.9	10.2	268.1	4.3
2021	581.5	9.5	305.9	5.0
2023	577.3	9.1	353.3	5.6

1 As a percentage of all persons aged 15 and over in the respective survey years.

**Table 2.4 : Daily conventional cigarette smokers by sex and age group**

Survey year				2021			2023		
				Number of persons			Number of persons		
				No. ('000)	Percentage share in respective sex (%)	Rate (%) (1)	No. ('000)	Percentage share in respective sex (%)	Rate (%) (1)
Type of smoker	Form of tobacco and related products	Sex	Age group						
Daily smokers	Conventional cigarettes	Male	≥15	15-19	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				20-29	37.7	7.8	9.6	33.0	6.7
				30-39	70.1	14.5	15.3	73.9	15.1
				40-49	112.5	23.3	24.6	102.8	21.0
				50-59	113.4	23.5	22.0	118.3	24.2
				≥60	148.0	30.6	15.7	159.8	32.7
				≥15	483.3	100.0	16.7	488.5	100.0
		Female	≥15	15-19	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				20-29	7.9	8.0	2.1	6.0	6.7
				30-39	23.6	24.1	4.5	17.6	19.9
				40-49	33.3	33.9	5.8	28.5	32.2
				50-59	20.2	20.6	3.2	26.0	29.2
				≥60	12.5	12.7	1.2	9.9	11.2
				≥15	98.2	100.0	3.0	88.8	100.0
		Both sexes	≥15	15-19	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				20-29	45.5	7.8	5.9	38.9	6.7
				30-39	93.8	16.1	9.5	91.6	15.9
				40-49	145.8	25.1	14.2	131.3	22.7
				50-59	133.7	23.0	11.7	144.3	25.0
				≥60	160.5	27.6	8.2	169.8	29.4
				≥15	581.5	100.0	9.5	577.3	100.0

1 As a percentage of all persons in the respective sex and age sub-groups.

[\*7] Figure is not released due to relatively large sampling error.

**Table 2.5 : Daily conventional cigarette smokers by age group and daily consumption of conventional cigarettes**

Survey year				2021			2023			
				Number of persons		Average daily consumption	Number of persons		Average daily consumption	
				No. ('000)	Percentage share in respective age group (%)	No. of sticks	No. ('000)	Percentage share in respective age group (%)	No. of sticks	
Type of smoker	Form of tobacco and related products	Age group		Daily consumption (no. of sticks)						
Daily smokers	Conventional cigarettes	≥15	15-19	1-10	[*7]	[*7]	-	[*7]	[*7]	-
				11-20	[*7]	[*7]	-	[*7]	[*7]	-
				≥21	[*7]	[*7]	-	[*7]	[*7]	-
				Overall	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
			20-29	1-10	30.7	67.3	-	27.8	71.4	-
				11-20	13.8	30.3	-	10.1	25.9	-
				≥21	[*7]	[*7]	-	[*7]	[*7]	-
				Overall	45.5	100.0	11.2	38.9	100.0	11.2
			30-39	1-10	62.8	66.9	-	61.0	66.6	-
				11-20	30.5	32.5	-	30.3	33.1	-
				≥21	[*7]	[*7]	-	[*7]	[*7]	-
				Overall	93.8	100.0	11.5	91.6	100.0	11.5
			40-49	1-10	83.7	57.4	-	83.3	63.4	-
				11-20	59.7	41.0	-	45.6	34.7	-
				≥21	[*7]	[*7]	-	[*7]	[*7]	-
				Overall	145.8	100.0	12.7	131.3	100.0	11.8
			50-59	1-10	67.2	50.3	-	82.8	57.4	-
				11-20	61.8	46.2	-	58.2	40.3	-
				≥21	4.7	3.5	-	3.2	2.2	-
				Overall	133.7	100.0	13.7	144.3	100.0	12.6
			≥60	1-10	94.1	58.6	-	99.3	58.5	-
				11-20	59.7	37.2	-	65.5	38.6	-
				≥21	6.8	4.2	-	5.0	2.9	-
				Overall	160.5	100.0	13.0	169.8	100.0	12.5
			≥15	1-10	339.5	58.4	-	355.4	61.6	-
				11-20	226.4	38.9	-	210.0	36.4	-
				≥21	15.5	2.7	-	11.9	2.1	-
				Overall	581.5	100.0	12.7	577.3	100.0	12.1

[\*7] Figure is not released due to relatively large sampling error.  
 - Not applicable

**Table 2.6 : Daily conventional cigarette smokers by sex and daily consumption of conventional cigarettes**

Survey year					2021			2023		
					Number of persons		Average daily consumption	Number of persons		Average daily consumption
					No. ('000)	Percentage share in respective sex (%)	No. of sticks	No. ('000)	Percentage share in respective sex (%)	No. of sticks
Type of smoker	Form of tobacco and related products	Age group	Sex	Daily consumption (no. of sticks)						
Daily smokers	Conventional cigarettes	≥15	Male	1-10	265.1	54.9	-	284.3	58.2	-
				11-20	204.0	42.2	-	192.5	39.4	-
				≥21	14.2	2.9	-	11.7	2.4	-
				Overall	483.3	100.0	13.2	488.5	100.0	12.6
			Female	1-10	74.4	75.8	-	71.1	80.1	-
				11-20	22.5	22.9	-	17.5	19.7	-
				≥21	[*7]	[*7]	-	[*7]	[*7]	-
				Overall	98.2	100.0	10.5	88.8	100.0	9.3
			Both sexes	1-10	339.5	58.4	-	355.4	61.6	-
				11-20	226.4	38.9	-	210.0	36.4	-
				≥21	15.5	2.7	-	11.9	2.1	-
				Overall	581.5	100.0	12.7	577.3	100.0	12.1

- Not applicable

[\*7] Figure is not released due to relatively large sampling error.

### 3. Detailed Statistics

#### Daily conventional cigarette smokers

**Table 3.1 : Daily conventional cigarette smokers by sex and age started smoking conventional cigarette weekly**

Survey year				2021		2023	
Age group				≥15		≥15	
				Number of persons		Number of persons	
				No. ('000)	Percentage share in respective sex (%)	No. ('000)	Percentage share in respective sex (%)
Type of smoker	Form of tobacco and related products	Sex	Age started smoking weekly				
Daily smokers	Conventional cigarettes	Male	<10	[*7]	[*7]	4.5	0.9
			10-19	311.7	64.5	294.0	60.2
			20-29	160.7	33.3	179.7	36.8
			≥30	10.9	2.2	10.3	2.1
			Overall	483.3	100.0	488.5	100.0
		Female	<10	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
			10-19	45.8	46.6	43.1	48.6
			20-29	45.6	46.5	40.6	45.8
			≥30	6.6	6.7	5.0	5.7
			Overall	98.2	100.0	88.8	100.0
		Both sexes	<10	[*7]	[*7]	4.5	0.8
			10-19	357.5	61.5	337.1	58.4
			20-29	206.3	35.5	220.4	38.2
			≥30	17.4	3.0	15.3	2.7
			Overall	581.5	100.0	577.3	100.0

[\*7] Figure is not released due to relatively large sampling error.

**Table 3.2 : Daily conventional cigarette smokers by economic activity status**

Survey year				2021			2023		
Age group				≥15			≥15		
				Number of persons			Number of persons		
				No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)	Rate (%) (1)	No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)	Rate (%) (1)
Type of smoker	Form of tobacco and related products	Economic activity status							
Daily smokers	Conventional cigarettes	Economically active		447.4	76.9	12.4	441.7	76.5	12.2
		Economically inactive	Retired persons	97.1	16.7	7.3	105.3	18.2	7.0
			Home-makers	25.4	4.4	3.4	23.4	4.1	3.2
			Others (2)	11.6	2.0	2.4	6.9	1.2	1.5
			Sub-total	134.1	23.1	5.3	135.6	23.5	5.0
		Overall		581.5	100.0	9.5	577.3	100.0	9.1

1 As a percentage of all persons aged 15 and over in the respective economic activity status groups.

2 Including students and other economically inactive persons.



**Table 3.3 : Daily conventional cigarette smokers by reason for starting to smoke conventional cigarette and sex**

Survey year				2021		2023	
Age group				≥15		≥15	
				Number of persons		Number of persons	
				No. (‘000)	Percentage share of smokers in respective sex (%) (1)	No. (‘000)	Percentage share of smokers in respective sex (%) (1)
Type of smoker	Form of tobacco and related products	Reason for starting to smoke (2)	Sex				
Daily smokers	Conventional cigarettes	Influenced by family members / friends / other persons	Male	467.8	96.8	470.6	96.3
			Female	96.4	98.2	85.7	96.5
			Both sexes	564.3	97.0	556.3	96.4
		Attracted by the tobacco flavour	Male	18.6	3.9	37.8	7.7
			Female	3.6	3.7	3.0	3.4
			Both sexes	22.3	3.8	40.9	7.1
		Looking stylish	Male	33.7	7.0	27.8	5.7
			Female	4.5	4.6	2.7	3.1
			Both sexes	38.2	6.6	30.6	5.3
		Attracted by the design of package	Male	13.2	2.7	14.4	3.0
			Female	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
			Both sexes	14.0	2.4	16.5	2.9
		Attracted by the flavour other than tobacco	Male	9.1	1.9	6.1	1.2
			Female	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.8
			Both sexes	12.6	2.2	9.5	1.6

1 Smokers refer to daily conventional cigarette smokers in the respective sex.

2 Multiple answers were allowed.

[\*7] Figure is not released due to relatively large sampling error.

**Table 3.4 : Daily conventional cigarette smokers by whether had tried / wanted to quit smoking and sex**

Age group					≥15								
Sex					Male			Female			Both sexes		
					Number of persons			Number of persons			Number of persons		
					No. ('000)	Percentage share of smokers in respective survey year (%)	Percentage share of smokers not tried to quit smoking (%)	No. ('000)	Percentage share of smokers in respective survey year (%)	Percentage share of smokers not tried to quit smoking (%)	No. ('000)	Percentage share of smokers in respective survey year (%)	Percentage share of smokers not tried to quit smoking (%)
Survey year	Type of smoker	Form of tobacco and related products	Whether had tried to quit smoking	Whether wanted to quit smoking									
2021	Daily smokers	Conventional cigarettes	Yes		152.7	31.6	-	30.6	31.1	-	183.3	31.5	-
			No	Wanted	9.1	-	2.8	4.4	-	6.5	13.5	-	3.4
				Not wanted	146.4	-	44.3	24.2	-	35.8	170.6	-	42.8
				Not decided	30.8	-	9.3	7.8	-	11.5	38.5	-	9.7
				Never considered	144.3	-	43.6	31.3	-	46.2	175.6	-	44.1
				Sub-total	330.5	68.4	100.0	67.6	68.9	100.0	398.2	68.5	100.0
			Overall		483.3	100.0	-	98.2	100.0	-	581.5	100.0	-
2023	Daily smokers	Conventional cigarettes	Yes		158.8	32.5	-	31.0	34.9	-	189.8	32.9	-
			No	Wanted	17.3	-	5.3	4.3	-	7.5	21.7	-	5.6
				Not wanted	121.7	-	36.9	18.2	-	31.4	139.9	-	36.1
				Not decided	45.6	-	13.8	10.6	-	18.4	56.2	-	14.5
				Never considered	145.0	-	44.0	24.7	-	42.7	169.7	-	43.8
				Sub-total	329.7	67.5	100.0	57.8	65.1	100.0	387.5	67.1	100.0
			Overall		488.5	100.0	-	88.8	100.0	-	577.3	100.0	-

- Not applicable

Current conventional cigarette smokers

**Table 3.5 : Current conventional cigarette smokers by age group and flavour of the conventional cigarette smoked for the first time**

Survey year				2021		2023	
				Number of persons		Number of persons	
				No. ('000)	Percentage share in respective age group (%)	No. ('000)	Percentage share in respective age group (%)
Type of smoker	Form of tobacco and related products	Age group	Flavour smoked for the first time				
Current smokers	Conventional cigarettes	≥15	15-19	Ordinary/original flavour	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				Menthol flavour	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				Menthol and fruit flavour	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				Others (1)	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				Could not remember	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				Overall	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
			20-29	Ordinary/original flavour	19.8	40.1	11.0
				Menthol flavour	28.1	57.0	28.3
				Menthol and fruit flavour	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				Others (1)	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				Could not remember	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				Overall	49.3	100.0	41.2
			30-39	Ordinary/original flavour	47.1	46.9	43.2
				Menthol flavour	50.0	49.7	52.3
				Menthol and fruit flavour	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				Others (1)	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				Could not remember	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				Overall	100.5	100.0	98.2
			40-49	Ordinary/original flavour	93.8	61.0	70.0
				Menthol flavour	54.9	35.7	66.0
				Menthol and fruit flavour	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				Others (1)	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				Could not remember	4.6	3.0	[*7]
				Overall	153.8	100.0	137.8
			50-59	Ordinary/original flavour	109.6	79.5	106.8
				Menthol flavour	25.1	18.2	42.9
				Menthol and fruit flavour	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				Others (1)	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				Could not remember	2.8	2.0	[*7]
				Overall	137.8	100.0	151.0
			≥60	Ordinary/original flavour	149.1	89.2	165.7
				Menthol flavour	14.9	8.9	11.7
				Menthol and fruit flavour	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				Others (1)	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				Could not remember	3.0	1.8	[*7]
				Overall	167.2	100.0	178.7
			≥15	Ordinary/original flavour	419.9	68.7	397.0
				Menthol flavour	174.6	28.6	202.3
				Menthol and fruit flavour	3.1	0.5	4.7
				Others (1)	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				Could not remember	11.9	2.0	2.4
				Overall	611.2	100.0	608.3

1 Including fruit flavour, alcohol flavour, spice flavour (e.g. cinnamon, clove, etc.) and sweet flavour (e.g. caramel, vanilla, coke, etc.).  
[\*7] Figure is not released due to relatively large sampling error.

**Table 3.6 : Current conventional cigarette smokers by sex and flavour of the conventional cigarette smoked for the first time**

Survey year				2021		2023	
Age group				≥15		≥15	
				Number of persons		Number of persons	
				No. ('000)	Percentage share in respective sex (%)	No. ('000)	Percentage share in respective sex (%)
Type of smoker	Form of tobacco and related products	Sex	Flavour smoked for the first time				
Current smokers	Conventional cigarettes	Male	Ordinary/original flavour	378.7	75.0	362.4	70.8
			Menthol flavour	113.7	22.5	144.9	28.3
			Menthol and fruit flavour	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
			Others (1)	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
			Could not remember	9.2	1.8	[*7]	[*7]
			Overall	504.7	100.0	512.2	100.0
		Female	Ordinary/original flavour	41.2	38.7	34.6	36.0
			Menthol flavour	60.9	57.2	57.4	59.7
			Menthol and fruit flavour	[*7]	[*7]	2.9	3.0
			Others (1)	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
			Could not remember	2.7	2.6	[*7]	[*7]
			Overall	106.4	100.0	96.1	100.0
		Both sexes	Ordinary/original flavour	419.9	68.7	397.0	65.3
			Menthol flavour	174.6	28.6	202.3	33.3
			Menthol and fruit flavour	3.1	0.5	4.7	0.8
			Others (1)	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
			Could not remember	11.9	2.0	2.4	0.4
			Overall	611.2	100.0	608.3	100.0

1 Including fruit flavour, alcohol flavour, spice flavour (e.g. cinnamon, clove, etc.) and sweet flavour (e.g. caramel, vanilla, coke, etc.).

[\*7] Figure is not released due to relatively large sampling error.

**Table 3.7 : Current conventional cigarette smokers by age group and flavour of the conventional cigarette currently smoked**

Survey year				2021		2023	
				Number of persons		Number of persons	
				No. ('000)	Percentage share of smokers in respective age group (%) (1)	No. ('000)	Percentage share of smokers in respective age group (%) (1)
Type of smoker	Form of tobacco and related products	Age group	Flavour currently smoked (2)				
Current smokers	Conventional cigarettes	≥15	15-19	Ordinary/original flavour	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				Menthol flavour	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				Menthol and fruit flavour	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
				Others (3)	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
		20-29	Ordinary/original flavour	18.6	37.8	11.7	28.5
			Menthol flavour	28.1	56.9	30.0	72.9
			Menthol and fruit flavour	2.9	6.0	2.4	5.9
			Others (3)	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
		30-39	Ordinary/original flavour	40.2	40.0	44.7	45.5
			Menthol flavour	56.8	56.5	55.8	56.8
			Menthol and fruit flavour	5.3	5.3	4.7	4.8
			Others (3)	[*7]	[*7]	6.1	6.3
		40-49	Ordinary/original flavour	80.2	52.2	70.7	51.3
			Menthol flavour	73.6	47.8	74.7	54.3
			Menthol and fruit flavour	[*7]	[*7]	3.8	2.7
			Others (3)	[*7]	[*7]	3.5	2.6
		50-59	Ordinary/original flavour	97.8	71.0	103.3	68.4
			Menthol flavour	40.0	29.0	54.3	36.0
			Menthol and fruit flavour	[*7]	[*7]	2.9	1.9
			Others (3)	[*7]	[*7]	3.2	2.1
		≥60	Ordinary/original flavour	147.4	88.1	160.8	90.0
			Menthol flavour	21.1	12.6	28.0	15.7
			Menthol and fruit flavour	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
			Others (3)	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
		≥15	Ordinary/original flavour	384.8	63.0	391.6	64.4
			Menthol flavour	221.5	36.2	244.0	40.1
			Menthol and fruit flavour	12.7	2.1	15.0	2.5
			Others (3)	5.4	0.9	16.4	2.7

1 Smokers refer to current conventional cigarette smokers in the respective age groups.

2 Multiple answers were allowed.

3 Including fruit flavour, alcohol flavour, spice flavour (e.g. cinnamon, clove, etc.) and sweet flavour (e.g. caramel, vanilla, coke, etc.).

[\*7] Figure is not released due to relatively large sampling error.

**Table 3.8 : Current conventional cigarette smokers by sex and flavour of the conventional cigarette currently smoked**

Survey year				2021		2023	
Age group				≥15		≥15	
				Number of persons		Number of persons	
				No. ('000)	Percentage share of smokers in respective sex (%) (1)	No. ('000)	Percentage share of smokers in respective sex (%) (1)
Type of smoker	Form of tobacco and related products	Sex	Flavour currently smoked (2)				
Current smokers	Conventional cigarettes	Male	Ordinary/original flavour	354.2	70.2	359.8	70.2
			Menthol flavour	148.8	29.5	183.3	35.8
			Menthol and fruit flavour	7.3	1.4	7.9	1.5
			Others (3)	4.0	0.8	11.1	2.2
		Female	Ordinary/original flavour	30.6	28.7	31.8	33.1
			Menthol flavour	72.7	68.3	60.7	63.1
			Menthol and fruit flavour	5.4	5.1	7.2	7.4
			Others (3)	[*7]	[*7]	5.3	5.5
		Both sexes	Ordinary/original flavour	384.8	63.0	391.6	64.4
			Menthol flavour	221.5	36.2	244.0	40.1
			Menthol and fruit flavour	12.7	2.1	15.0	2.5
			Others (3)	5.4	0.9	16.4	2.7

1 Smokers refer to current conventional cigarette smokers in the respective sex.

2 Multiple answers were allowed.

3 Including fruit flavour, alcohol flavour, spice flavour (e.g. cinnamon, clove, etc.) and sweet flavour (e.g. caramel, vanilla, coke, etc.).

[\*7] Figure is not released due to relatively large sampling error.



## Ex-daily conventional cigarette smokers

**Table 3.9 : Ex-daily conventional cigarette smokers by age group**

Survey year				2021			2023		
				Number of persons			Number of persons		
				No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)	Rate (%) <sup>(1)</sup>	No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)	Rate (%) <sup>(1)</sup>
Type of smoker	Form of tobacco and related products	Age group							
Ex-daily smokers	Conventional cigarettes	≥15	15-29	5.9	1.9	0.6	5.0	1.4	0.5
			30-39	23.7	7.8	2.4	23.6	6.7	2.5
			40-49	37.6	12.3	3.6	47.1	13.3	4.5
			50-59	62.1	20.3	5.4	61.4	17.4	5.4
			≥60	176.6	57.7	9.0	216.2	61.2	9.8
			≥15	305.9	100.0	5.0	353.3	100.0	5.6

1 As a percentage of all persons in the respective age groups.

**Table 3.10 : Ex-daily conventional cigarette smokers by sex**

Survey year			2021			2023		
Age group			≥15			≥15		
			Number of persons			Number of persons		
			No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)	Rate (%) (1)	No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)	Rate (%) (1)
Type of smoker	Form of tobacco and related products	Sex						
Ex-daily smokers	Conventional cigarettes	Male	264.8	86.6	9.1	309.9	87.7	10.4
		Female	41.0	13.4	1.3	43.4	12.3	1.3
		Both sexes	305.9	100.0	5.0	353.3	100.0	5.6

1 As a percentage of all persons aged 15 and over in the respective sex.

**Table 3.11 : Ex-daily conventional cigarette smokers by reason for quitting smoking and sex**

Survey year				2021		2023	
Age group				≥15		≥15	
				Number of persons		Number of persons	
				No. ('000)	Percentage share of smokers in respective sex (%) (1)	No. ('000)	Percentage share of smokers in respective sex (%) (1)
Type of smoker	Form of tobacco and related products	Reason for quitting smoking (2)	Sex				
Ex-daily smokers	Conventional cigarettes	Health had not yet been harmed by smoking, but wanted to prevent from being harmed	Male	94.7	35.8	107.9	34.8
			Female	16.4	40.1	16.1	37.1
			Both sexes	111.1	36.3	124.1	35.1
		Health had already been harmed by smoking	Male	86.7	32.8	95.0	30.6
			Female	4.8	11.7	7.2	16.7
			Both sexes	91.5	29.9	102.2	28.9
		Avoided affecting family members due to smoking habit / secondhand smoke	Male	48.2	18.2	65.1	21.0
			Female	11.1	27.0	12.4	28.6
			Both sexes	59.2	19.4	77.5	21.9
		Advised by family members / friends	Male	54.7	20.6	64.0	20.7
			Female	7.4	18.0	8.2	18.8
			Both sexes	62.1	20.3	72.2	20.4
		Saved money on smoking products	Male	34.9	13.2	42.2	13.6
			Female	5.8	14.1	5.5	12.7
			Both sexes	40.7	13.3	47.8	13.5
		Advised by doctors / nurses / other health care professionals	Male	35.7	13.5	33.8	10.9
			Female	4.7	11.5	4.4	10.0
			Both sexes	40.4	13.2	38.1	10.8
		Smoking was prohibited in many places	Male	18.2	6.9	32.2	10.4
			Female	2.5	6.1	4.0	9.1
			Both sexes	20.6	6.7	36.2	10.2
		Smoking was a socially undesirable habit	Male	15.5	5.9	17.8	5.8
			Female	3.4	8.2	3.4	7.8
			Both sexes	18.9	6.2	21.2	6.0

1 Smokers refer to ex-daily conventional cigarette smokers in the respective sex.

2 Multiple answers were allowed.

## Awareness of current smokers of the smoking cessation services or methods

**Table 3.12 : Current smokers by age group and awareness of the smoking cessation services or methods**

Survey year			2021						2023					
Awareness of the smoking cessation services or methods (1) (2)			Aware		Not aware		Overall		Aware		Not aware		Overall	
			Number of persons		Number of persons		Number of persons		Number of persons		Number of persons		Number of persons	
			No. ('000)	Percentage share in respective age group (%)	No. ('000)	Percentage share in respective age group (%)	No. ('000)	Percentage share in respective age group (%)	No. ('000)	Percentage share in respective age group (%)	No. ('000)	Percentage share in respective age group (%)	No. ('000)	Percentage share in respective age group (%)
Type of smoker	Age group													
Current smokers	≥15	15-19	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]
		20-29	47.2	86.2	7.6	13.8	54.8	100.0	34.2	77.1	10.2	22.9	44.4	100.0
		30-39	88.6	81.5	20.2	18.5	108.8	100.0	88.7	84.6	16.1	15.4	104.8	100.0
		40-49	129.4	80.5	31.3	19.5	160.7	100.0	120.0	85.1	21.0	14.9	141.1	100.0
		50-59	111.4	79.8	28.1	20.2	139.5	100.0	130.5	84.1	24.6	15.9	155.1	100.0
		≥60	110.1	65.3	58.5	34.7	168.5	100.0	139.0	77.3	40.8	22.7	179.8	100.0
		≥15	488.5	76.9	146.9	23.1	635.5	100.0	514.0	82.0	112.7	18.0	626.7	100.0

1 Smoking cessation services refer to smoking cessation hotline, smoking cessation clinic, the smoking cessation service using acupuncture and smoking cessation medications mailing service.

2 Smoking cessation methods refer to self-purchase smoking cessation medications, prescription smoking cessation medications (not from smoking cessation clinic) and smoking cessation mobile apps.

[\*7] Figure is not released due to relatively large sampling error.

**Table 3.13 : Current smokers by sex and awareness of the smoking cessation services or methods**

Survey year		2021						2023					
Age group		≥15						≥15					
Awareness of the smoking cessation services or methods (1) (2)		Aware		Not aware		Overall		Aware		Not aware		Overall	
		Number of persons		Number of persons		Number of persons		Number of persons		Number of persons		Number of persons	
		No. (‘000)	Percentage share in respective sex (%)	No. (‘000)	Percentage share in respective sex (%)	No. (‘000)	Percentage share in respective sex (%)	No. (‘000)	Percentage share in respective sex (%)	No. (‘000)	Percentage share in respective sex (%)	No. (‘000)	Percentage share in respective sex (%)
Type of smoker	Sex												
Current smokers	Male	397.4	76.1	124.6	23.9	522.1	100.0	428.5	81.6	96.5	18.4	525.0	100.0
	Female	91.1	80.3	22.3	19.7	113.4	100.0	85.4	84.0	16.2	16.0	101.7	100.0
	Both sexes	488.5	76.9	146.9	23.1	635.5	100.0	514.0	82.0	112.7	18.0	626.7	100.0

1 Smoking cessation services refer to smoking cessation hotline, smoking cessation clinic, the smoking cessation service using acupuncture and smoking cessation medications mailing service.

2 Smoking cessation methods refer to self-purchase smoking cessation medications, prescription smoking cessation medications (not from smoking cessation clinic) and smoking cessation mobile apps.

**Table 3.14 : Current smokers who were aware of the smoking cessation services or methods and had tried the specific services or methods by the specific smoking cessation services or methods tried and sex**

Survey year		2021						2023					
Age group		≥15						≥15					
Type of smoker		Current smokers						Current smokers					
Sex		Male		Female		Both sexes		Male		Female		Both sexes	
		Number of persons		Number of persons		Number of persons		Number of persons		Number of persons		Number of persons	
		No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)	No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)	No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)	No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)	No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)	No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)
Whether had tried the specific smoking cessation services or methods (1) (2)	The specific smoking cessation services or methods tried (1) (2) (3)												
Yes	Self-determination	117.4	85.4	27.5	87.9	144.9	85.8	163.2	88.6	30.7	86.9	194.0	88.3
	The specific smoking cessation services (1)	10.8	7.9	[*7]	[*7]	12.7	7.5	21.7	11.8	5.2	14.7	26.9	12.3
	GP prescribed or self-purchased medication	9.5	6.9	[*7]	[*7]	11.7	6.9	12.4	6.7	[*7]	[*7]	14.8	6.7
	Smoking cessation mobile apps	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	[*7]	3.4	1.5
	Overall	137.6	100.0	31.3	100.0	168.8	100.0	184.2	100.0	35.3	100.0	219.5	100.0

- 1 Smoking cessation services refer to smoking cessation hotline, smoking cessation clinic, the smoking cessation service using acupuncture and smoking cessation medications mailing service.
- 2 Smoking cessation methods refer to self-purchase smoking cessation medications, prescription smoking cessation medications (not from smoking cessation clinic), smoking cessation mobile apps and self-determination.
- 3 Multiple answers were allowed.
- [\*7] Figure is not released due to relatively large sampling error.

**Table 3.15 : Current smokers who were aware of the smoking cessation services or methods but had not tried the specific services or methods by whether would try the specific smoking cessation services and sex**

Survey year		2021						2023					
Age group		≥15						≥15					
Type of smoker		Current smokers						Current smokers					
Sex		Male		Female		Both sexes		Male		Female		Both sexes	
		Number of persons		Number of persons		Number of persons		Number of persons		Number of persons		Number of persons	
		No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)	No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)	No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)	No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)	No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)	No. ('000)	Percentage share (%)
Whether had tried the specific smoking cessation services or methods (1) (2)	Whether would try the specific smoking cessation services (1)												
No	Yes	13.0	5.0	6.3	10.5	19.3	6.0	24.7	10.1	4.1	8.2	28.8	9.8
	No	246.9	95.0	53.6	89.5	300.4	94.0	219.7	89.9	46.0	91.8	265.7	90.2
	Total	259.9	100.0	59.8	100.0	319.7	100.0	244.3	100.0	50.1	100.0	294.4	100.0

- 1 Smoking cessation services refer to smoking cessation hotline, smoking cessation clinic, the smoking cessation service using acupuncture and smoking cessation medications mailing service.
- 2 Smoking cessation methods refer self-purchase smoking cessation medications, prescription smoking cessation medications (not from smoking cessation clinic), smoking cessation mobile apps and self-determination.

## 4. Appendix: School-based Survey on Smoking among Students in 2022/23

Apart from the Thematic Household Survey (THS), the Health Bureau commissioned the School of Public Health of the University of Hong Kong to conduct a school-based survey on smoking among students from March to November 2023 to collect data on the prevalence, pattern and trend of smoking of youth smokers in schools and their profile. Key findings are presented here (in [PDF](#), [XLSX](#) and [CSV](#) formats) for reference.

Enquiries on the school-based survey may be directed to the Research and Data Analytics Office, Health Bureau (Tel. : 3150 8930).

## 5. Further Information

For more statistics on the topic, please refer to the following web page where you will find supplementary statistical tables (in XLSX and CSV formats):

**Table E573 : Supplementary Tables of Thematic Household Survey Report No. 79**

- Persons aged 15 and over who had visited health care professionals during the 12 months before enumeration by age group / sex and whether had been asked about smoking status by health care professionals during the visit
- Persons aged 15 and over by age group / sex and whether considered that health care professionals should ask about smoking status during the visit
- Persons aged 15 and over who had been exposed to secondhand smoke in outdoor public areas during the 7 days before enumeration by place of exposure to secondhand smoke
- Persons aged 15 and over by place that should be included in the expansion of statutory no smoking areas

## 6. Explanatory Notes

### Survey coverage and methodology

This round of the Thematic Household Survey (THS) was conducted from May to August 2023 which covered the land-based non-institutional population of Hong Kong Resident Population (i.e. comprising Usual Residents and Mobile Residents), but did not include foreign domestic helpers.

Some 10 100 households within a scientifically selected sample of quarters were successfully enumerated in this survey, constituting a response rate of 76%. Within each enumerated household, all persons aged 15 and over (excluding foreign domestic helpers) were selected for interview. For details of survey methodology, information collected and reliability of the estimates for this round of THS, please refer to Part 1 of the Explanatory Notes [here](#).

### Survey period

Survey periods covered in the report:

Survey Year	Survey Period	Results Released in THS Report No.
2000	October - November 2000	5
2003	November 2002 - February 2003	16
2005	February - May 2005	26
2008	December 2007 - March 2008	36
2010	October - December 2010	48
2012	September - November 2012	53
2015	May - August 2015	59
2017	June - September 2017	64
2019	April - July 2019	70
2021	April - July 2021	75

Survey Year	Survey Period	Results Released in THS Report No.
2023	May - August 2023	79

Besides, similar enquiries had been conducted for 9 times between 1982 and 1998 in the form of special topic enquiry via the General Household Survey. Major findings of those surveys were presented in the Special Topics Report on Social Data Collected via the General Household Survey No. 2 (containing findings of the surveys conducted from January to March 1982 and in March 1983), 3, 5 (containing findings of the surveys conducted in July 1986 and in July 1988), 7, 11, 15 and 20 (<https://www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1130201&scode=453>).

### Rounding of figures

There may be a slight discrepancy between the sum of individual items and the total as shown in the charts and tables due to rounding.

### Terms and definitions

- **Smoking** refers to the smoking of all forms of tobacco and related products, including conventional cigarette, heated tobacco product, e-cigarette, cigar, hand-rolled cigarette, pipe-smoking, snuff/snus and water pipe.

*[Cautionary remark: The surveys conducted in 2015 and 2017 covered persons who smoked all forms of tobacco and related products with heated tobacco product not specifically counted. The surveys from 2003 to 2012 only covered tobacco smokers (including conventional cigarette, cigar, hand-rolled cigarette, water pipe and pipe-smoking). For those surveys conducted in 2000 and before, only conventional cigarette smokers were covered. Care should be taken in comparing the findings across the surveys mentioned above.]*

- **Current smokers** refer to those persons who had a smoking habit (regardless of the forms of tobacco or related products they consumed and their smoking pattern) at the time of enumeration.
- **Current conventional cigarette smokers** refer to those persons who had a conventional cigarette smoking habit at the time of enumeration (including daily and non-daily smokers of conventional cigarette).
- **Daily conventional cigarette smokers** refer to those persons who had a daily conventional cigarette smoking habit at the time of enumeration, although they might not smoke on certain days because of illness or other reasons.
- **Ex-daily conventional cigarette smokers** refer to those persons who previously had a daily conventional cigarette smoking habit for a continuous period of 6 months and more but had quitted smoking at the time of enumeration.

For the full list of terms and definitions (including common terms and definitions of the socio-economic characteristics of population) for this round of THS, please refer to Part 2 of the Explanatory Notes [here](#).

## 7. Enquiries

Social Surveys Section (1)  
 Census and Statistics Department  
 Tel. : (852) 2887 5103  
 Email : [thematic@censtatd.gov.hk](mailto:thematic@censtatd.gov.hk)