

Data Sheet 53 (DS 053)

Residents Who Are Smokers

What are we monitoring?

The percentage of Blue Mountains residents who smoke as assessed by Public health surveys.

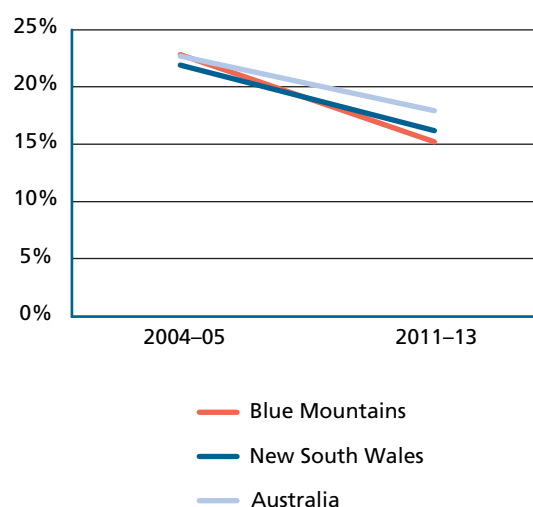
What is the trend?

According to the results of Public Health surveys, the percentage of Blue Mountains residents who smoke continues to fall, from an estimated 23% of the population in 2004–2005 to 15% in 2013. This is in line with nation-wide smoking trends. However, the levels of smoking in the Blue Mountains are below the average for Australia and NSW.

Why is monitoring this trend important?

Smoking is considered to be a poor health behaviour that increases the risk of premature death and of developing a wide range of diseases, including cancer, cardiovascular disease and stroke. Reductions in smoking rates indicate a healthier more sustainable population with a lower cost burden on the medical system.

Percentage of Smokers Per 100 Residents



Smokers Per 100 Residents – Blue Mountains, NSW and Australia

Blue Mountains		
Year	2004–05	2011–13
Number	12,754	8,767
Per 100 Residents (%)	23%	15%
New South Wales		
Year	2004–05	2011–13
Number	1,115,825	890,091
Per 100 Residents (%)	22%	16%
Australia		
Year	2004–05	2011–13
Number	3,462,717	3,059,237
Per 100 Residents (%)	23%	18%

Source: Social Health Atlas of Australian Local Government Areas, Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU), Adelaide University, Australia 2004–2005, 2011–2013