

Smoking in Nova Scotia

A Look at the DHAs

March 2003

The Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) is a new series of health surveys being conducted by Statistics Canada. Its purpose is to provide regular and timely cross-sectional estimates of health determinants, health status, and health system use for 136 health regions across the country. This survey adds to Canada's capacity for in-depth analysis of health-related issues in this country. Data from the first installment of the CCHS, Cycle 1.1, was released in May 2002.

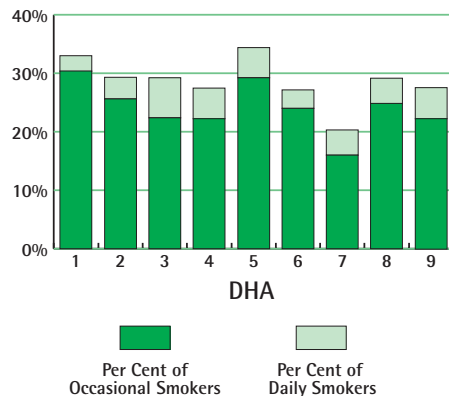
CCHS Cycle 1.1 provided a great deal of information valuable to decision and policy makers. A general overview of Cycle 1.1 data was released by PMHI in October 2002 and is available at http://www.gov.ns.ca/heal/downloads/cchs_dha.pdf. In supplement to the first of a series of reports providing an in-depth look at thematic CCHS data, some figures are presented at the DHA level here.

DHA Highlights

- Smoking rates similar across DHAs
- DHA 8 reports high rates of second-hand smoke exposure among non-smokers

Smoking rates do not vary significantly across DHAs. The only significant difference occurs between DHAs 1 and 7, in the percentage of daily smokers. This shows the role of sample size in the determination of significance. Even though DHA 5 has a similar estimated proportion of daily smokers to that of DHA 1, DHA 1 has

Smoking Types by DHA



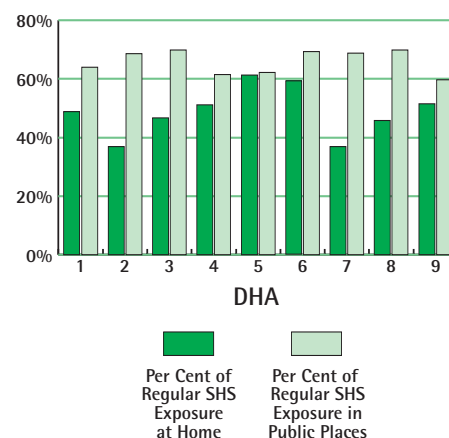
a significantly higher daily smoking rate than does DHA 7, and DHA 5 does not. This is due to a difference in sample size between DHAs 1 and 5; more people were sampled from DHA 1, which is reasonable, as DHA 5 is the least populated DHA.

The percentage of regular second-hand smoke exposure by DHA is measured as the percentage of the non-smoking population of that DHA who were exposed to second-hand smoke “most days.” The percentage of

regular second-hand smoke exposure at home/in public places is measured as the percentage of those non-smokers who were exposed to second-hand smoke at home/in a public place “most days.”

The percentage of the non-smoking population regularly exposed to second-hand smoke in DHA 8 was significantly higher than in almost every other DHA. Only DHAs 5 and 6 had rates of second-hand smoke exposure that were not significantly lower than that of DHA 8. The rates of exposure at home/in public places did not differ significantly across DHAs.

Second-hand Smoke Exposure by DHA



This document was prepared by the Performance Measurement and Health Informatics Section, Information Management Branch of the Nova Scotia Department of Health. For additional information on the data included in this report, please contact us at (902) 424-8291.