

Smoking

Figure 8a: Percent¹ Current Smoker, by Income², Males Aged 20-64 Years, Toronto, 2001, 2003 & 2005 Combined

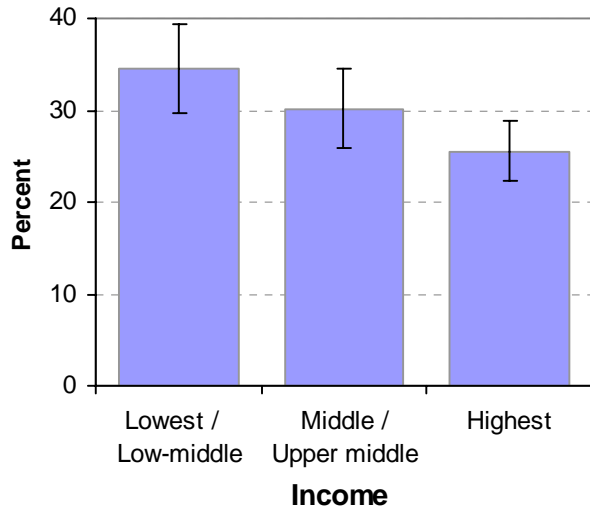
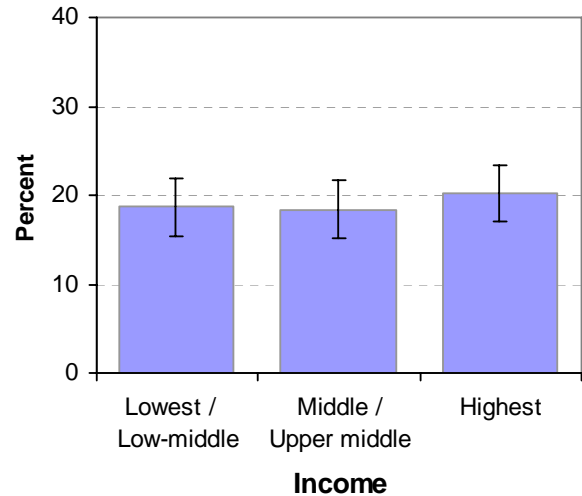


Figure 8b: Percent¹ Current Smoker, by Income², Females Aged 20-64 Years, Toronto, 2001, 2003 & 2005 Combined



¹ Age standardized to the 1991 Canadian population.

² Income is the income adequacy measure used in the CCHS.

Error bars (I) denote 95% confidence intervals.

Source: Canadian Community Health Survey Cycles 1.1, 2.1 and 3.1 .

Tobacco use is a major cause of preventable, premature illness and death. In addition people exposed to environmental tobacco smoke experience ill-health effects. Overall in Toronto, 29% of males and 18% of females aged 20 to 64 years were current smokers.

There was a gradient in those who reported current smoking status for Toronto adult males and not for adult females (age 20-64 years) by income category. Males in the lowest income category reported they were current smokers more often than males in the highest income category (35% vs. 26%, respectively). There was a significant difference in male current smoker rates between the lowest and highest income categories.

There was no significant difference among female current smoker rates across income categories. Patterns of tobacco use are more complex for women than for men. Women’s smoking behaviour, both initiation and cessation, is related to many factors including perinatal and prenatal stages in life. For example, smoking rates decrease significantly before and during pregnancy. This and other factors provide a challenge to understanding and interpreting the association between gender, income and smoking prevalence among women.

The absolute difference for males between the lowest and highest income categories was 9 percentage points. In relative terms, males in the lowest income category reported being a current smoker 1.4 times more than males in the highest income category.

If the percent reported by males in the highest income category was applied to all males in the low and middle income categories, there would be 30,240 or 13% fewer male smokers per year between the ages 20-64 years in Toronto.

The level of current smokers among males aged 20-64 years in the lowest income category in Toronto was 12% higher than the rate in the rest of Ontario. Across all income categories for females, the current smoker rates in Toronto were lower than the rate for the rest of Ontario.