

Tobacco consumption

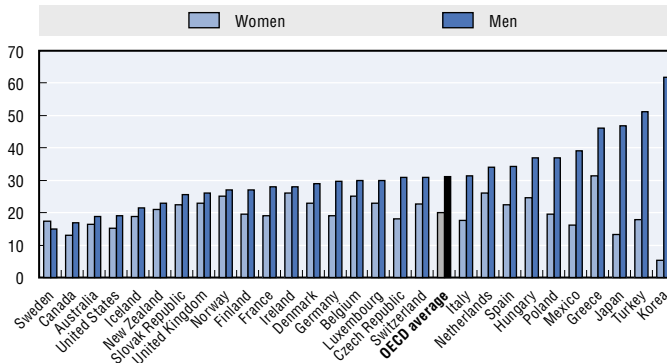
Did you know?

The *World Health Organisation* estimates that over 15 billion cigarettes are smoked each day. One in three of these is smoked in China. The United States is the next biggest cigarette market followed by Japan, Russia and Indonesia.

Globally, far more men than women smoke although the gender gap is falling and cigarette advertising is increasingly aimed at women in Asia and other developing countries. In OECD countries, however, the most important change has been a decline in smoking by men. Women do also smoke less than previously, but the rate of decline has been much slower.

More men than women smoke in all OECD countries except Sweden. In 2004 (or the latest year available), the gender gap in smoking rates was particularly large in Korea, Turkey and Japan and, to a lesser extent, in Greece, Mexico and Poland.

Percentage of men and women reporting that they smoke daily
2004 or latest year available

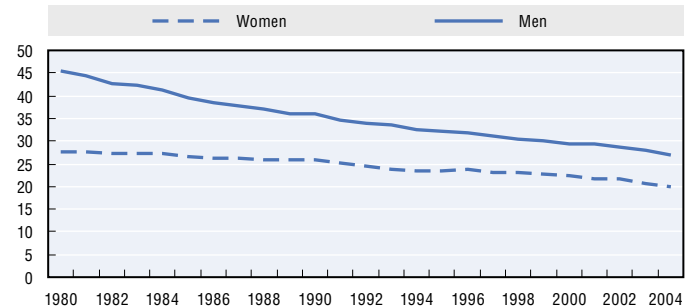


The proportion of daily smokers among adult women and men varies greatly across OECD countries. Sweden, Canada, Australia and the United States have the lowest overall percentage of daily smokers, with less than 18% of adults reporting smoking each day in 2004. Greece reported the highest rate of 39%.

Between 1980 and 2004, the percentage of smokers in the male populations of all OECD countries has declined. The same is true for women in most countries although in at least two – Finland and France – a greater proportion of women now smoke than in 1980.

For the 16 OECD countries for which unbroken time series are available from 1980, the decline in smoking by men has been more marked than for women so that the gender gap is narrowing. In 1980 the gap was 18% but had narrowed to 7% by 2004.

Long-term fall in tobacco consumption in 16 OECD countries
Percentage of men and women 15 years or older who report that they smoke daily 1980-2004



Source: OECD (2005), *Health at a Glance – OECD Indicators 2005*, OECD, Paris; OECD (2006), *OECD Health Data 2006*, OECD, Paris.

World Health Organisation (2006), www.who.int/tobacco/en/atlas8.pdf

Further reading:

OECD (2005), *Health at a Glance: OECD Indicators 2005*, OECD, Paris.