

2. Provincial Findings

2.1 Introduction

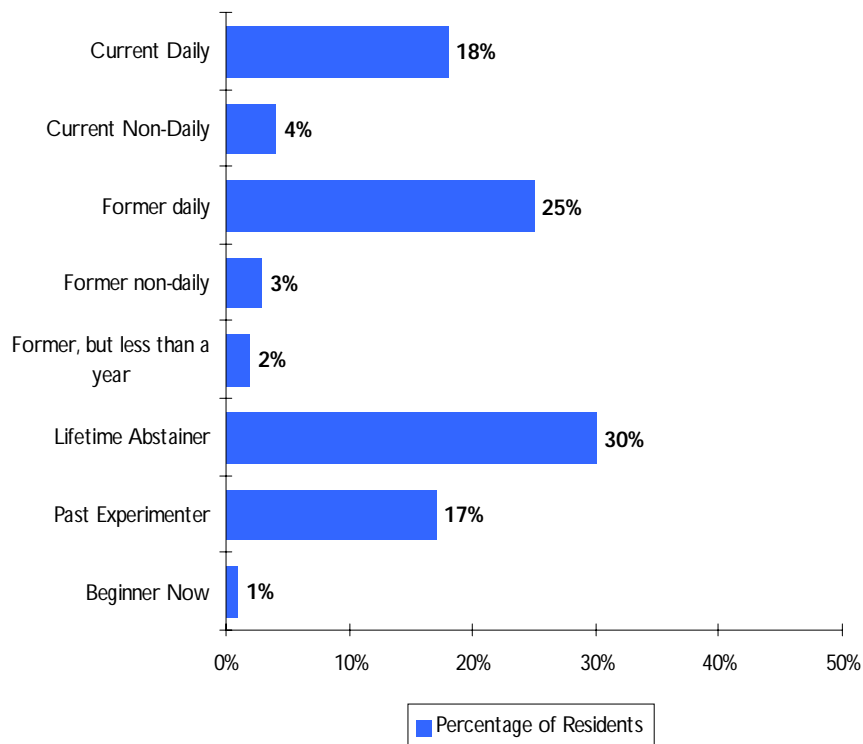
The results in this report are based on approximately 1,000 interviews in each of the province's 18 Regional Health Boards or Community Health Services Societies. This resulted in a total of 18,030 telephone interviews conducted throughout the province via random digit dialing. The margin of error for a sample size of 18,030 is $\pm 0.7\%$ nineteen times out of twenty. The entire provincial sample was weighted to known age and gender proportions by the 18 RHBs/CHSSs (as per 1996 Statistics Canada data).

Information in this report pertains to the base questionnaire – prevalence of cigarette smoking, demographics of cigarette smoking, frequency of use, age of initiation, and exposure to environmental tobacco smoke. Information on alternate forms of tobacco (cigars, pipes and smokeless tobacco) are covered in their own chapter.

2.2 Cigarette Smoking Status of BC Residents

Detailed information concerning past and present use of cigarettes at the time of the survey was collected for residents of BC (aged 12+). Eight user groups are identified for cigarette smoking: current daily; current non-daily; former daily; former non-daily; former, but less than a year; lifetime abstainer; past experimenter; and beginner.

Cigarette Smoking Status of B.C. Residents, Aged 12+, 1997



The current prevalence of cigarette smoking among all BC residents (aged 12+), is 22%. Daily users predominate among current cigarette smokers at 18%, while non-daily smokers represent 4% of all residents. As shown in the table to follow, this prevalence rate varies somewhat from region to region, with a low of 20% in the Lower Mainland to a high of 28% in the North.

Former cigarette smokers comprise 30% of all BC residents. This percentage includes former daily smokers (25%), former non-daily smokers (3%), and former smokers, who quit less than a year ago (2%). These percentages for former cigarette smokers also vary somewhat by region, with a low of 26% of the population in the Northern region to a high of 34% in the Island/Coast region.

By contrast, BC residents who have never smoked cigarettes represent 48% of the population aged 12+ years. These never users include lifetime abstainers (30%), past

experimenters (17%), and beginners (1%). A comparison of the percentage of the population who are never smokers by region, suggests this percentage is slightly lower in the Island/Coast region (44%) and modestly higher in the Lower Mainland region (51%).

Cigarette Smoking Status of BC Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997					
	BC	Lower Mainland	Southern Interior	Island/Coast	North
	%	%	%	%	%
Current daily	18	16	20	18	23
Current non-daily	4	4	4	4	5
Former daily	25	24	27	29	22
Former non-daily	3	3	2	3	2
Former, but less than a year	2	2	2	2	2
Lifetime Abstainer	30	32	29	27	29
Past Experimenter	17	18	16	16	15
Beginner now	1	1	1	1	1

In sum, current cigarette smokers make up 22% of BC population (aged 12+), while former smokers represent 30% and never smokers 48%. Overall, these proportions indicate that the prevalence of cigarette smoking in BC may be continuing to decline through the 1990's. By way of comparison, the General Social Survey of 1991 found 29% of BC residents (aged 15+) were current cigarette smokers, while the Survey on Smoking in Canada of 1994 (Cycle 1) found 25% of BC residents (aged 15+) were current cigarette smokers. Neither of these two national surveys included residents aged 12 to 14 years in their sampling frames. However, even when the 1997 results of this survey are rerun to exclude the 12-14 age group, proportions change only minimally - current (22%), former (31%), never (47%).

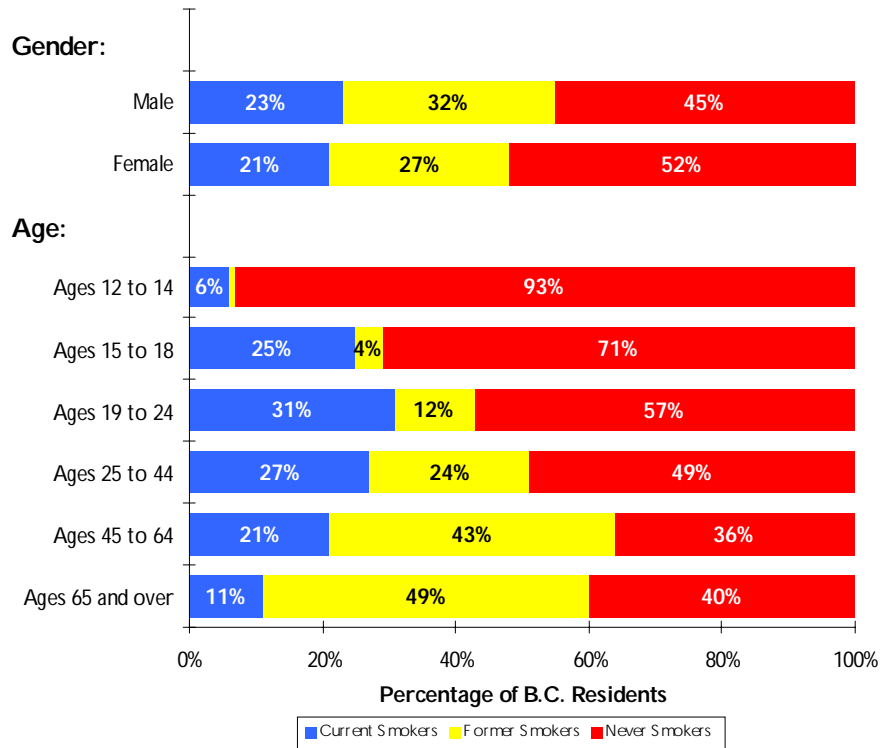
2.3 The Social Demographics of Cigarette Smoking

In this section, cigarette smokers (i.e., current, former, never) have been cross tabulated against a range of social demographic characteristics of BC residents, in order to demonstrate a number of social and economic variations in cigarette smoking. As outlined earlier, 22% of all BC residents are current cigarette smokers, 30% are former cigarette smokers, and 48% are never users.

Gender and Age The following graph highlights differences in cigarette smoking as a function of gender and age. While there are some minor differences between male and female residents, age related differences are more apparent. Male and female residents are equally likely to be current cigarette smokers (23% vs. 21%), but males are more likely than females to be former cigarette smokers (32% vs. 27%). On the other hand, female residents are more likely than male residents to have never been a cigarette smoker (52% vs. 45%).

Age related differences are also displayed in the graph. The rate for current cigarette smoking is highest among 19 to 24 year olds (31%) followed by those 25 to 44 (27%) and 15 to 18 (25%). It is lowest among 12 to 14 year olds (6%) and those aged 65 and over (11%). The probability of being a former cigarette smoker rises steadily with age, from 1% among 12 to 14 year olds to 49% among residents aged 65 and over. On the other hand, the proportion of residents who have never smoked cigarettes declines dramatically from 93% of 12 to 14 years olds to 71% of those aged 15 to 18 and down to a low of 36% for those 45 to 64.

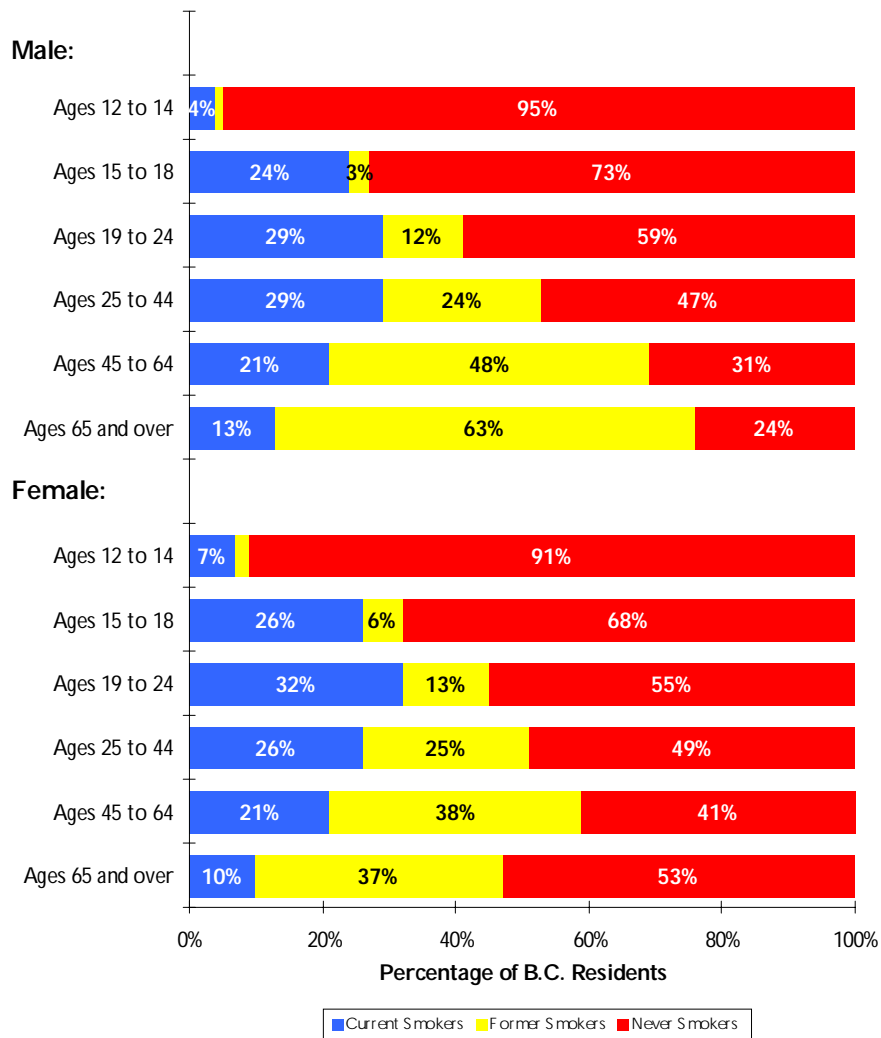
Cigarette Smoking among B.C. Residents by Gender and Age, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997



Current cigarettesmokers = daily smokers + non-daily smokers

The next graph shows cigarette use by age within gender. As the graph illustrates, there are some relationships occurring. For example, females aged 12 to 24 are slightly more likely than males 12 to 24 to be current or former users and less likely to be never users. Similarly, males aged 45 or older are slightly more likely than females 45 or older to be current or former users and less likely to be never users.

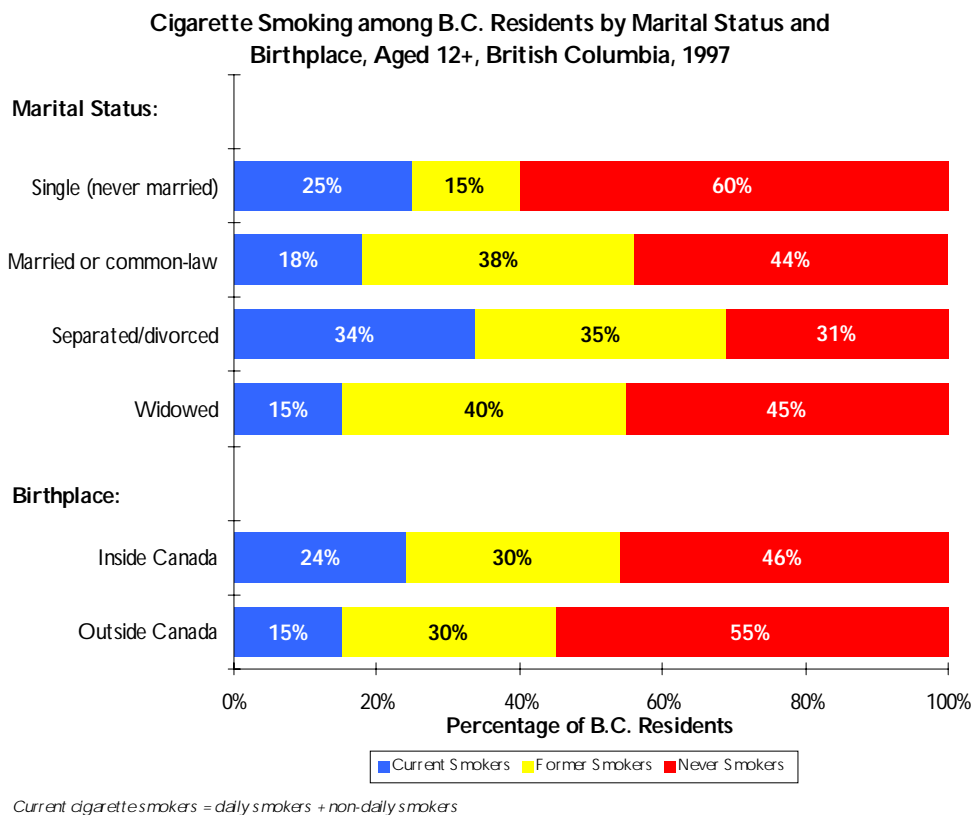
Cigarette Smoking among Residents by Age within Gender, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997



Current cigarette smokers = daily smokers + non-daily smokers

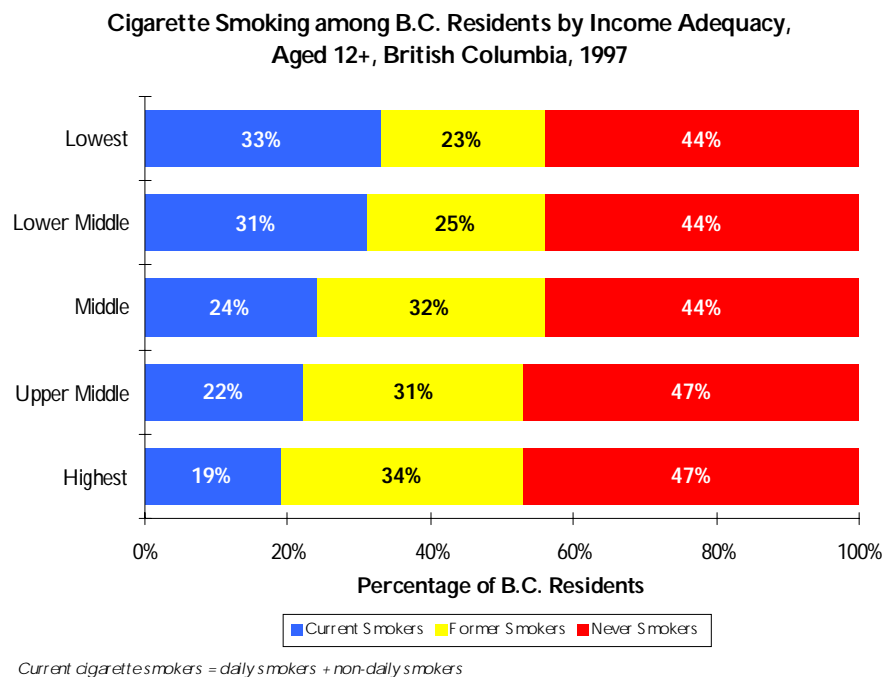
Birthplace and Marital Status The graph to follow displays the relationship between cigarette smoking and place of birth, as well as marital status. Residents of the province who were born in Canada are more likely to be current cigarette smokers (24%), than are residents who were born outside of Canada (15%). Additionally, foreign born residents are somewhat more likely than Canadian born residents to have never been a cigarette smoker (55% vs. 46%).

Differences in rates of cigarette smoking are also clearly evident in the graph, as a function of marital status. For instance, the proportion of current smokers is highest among residents who are separated or divorced (34%), while the proportion of former smokers is higher among those who are presently married or living common law and those who are widowed (38% and 40% respectively). Finally, those residents who have never married (i.e., are single) are most likely (60%) to have never been a cigarette smoker (see the graph for further details).

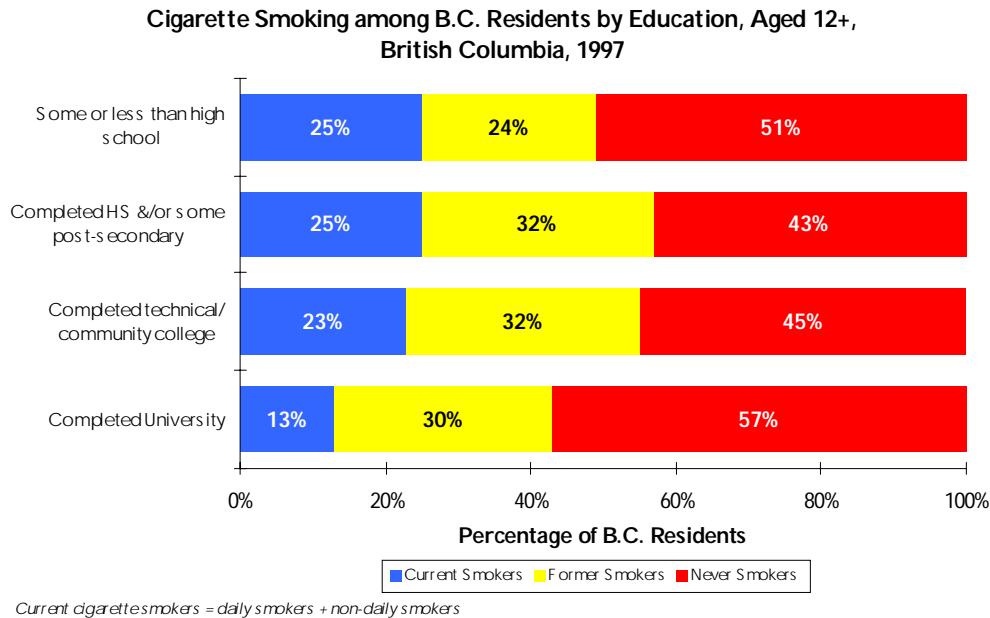


Income Adequacy and Education The graph to follow shows the relationship between cigarette smoking and income adequacy for the household. In general, the present survey data suggest there is an inverse relationship between income adequacy and current cigarette smoking. That is, the proportion of current smokers declines with each rise in the income adequacy of the household, from 33% among those with the lowest income

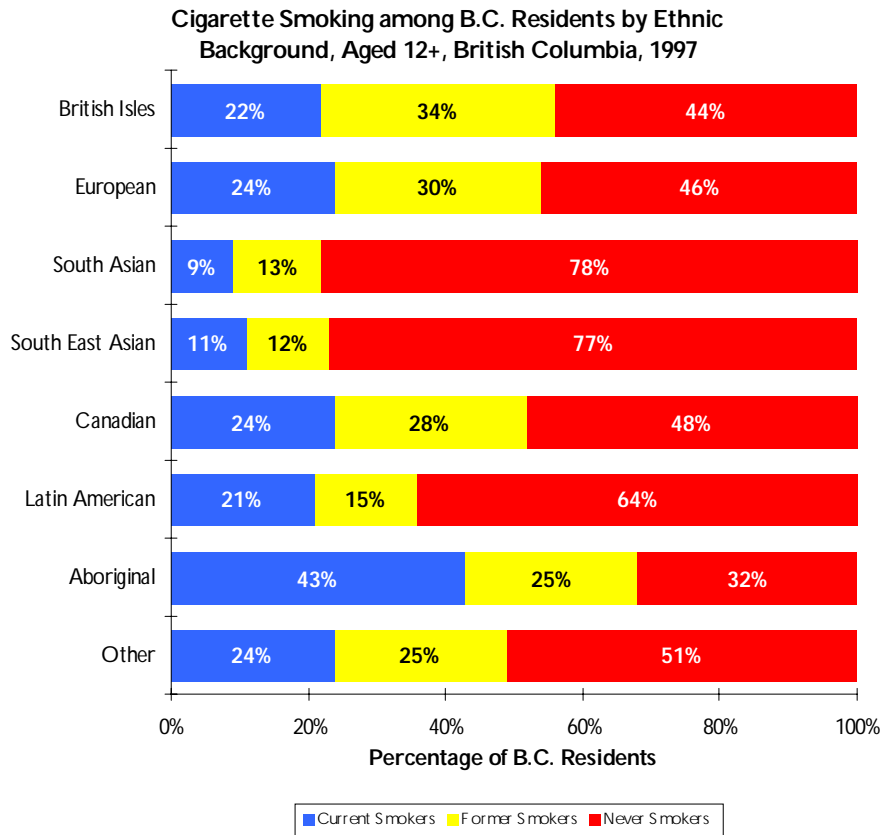
adequacy to 19% among those with the highest income adequacy. Conversely, the proportion of former smokers rises steadily with increments of income adequacy, from 23% among those with the lowest level to 34% among those with the highest level of income.



The next graph illustrates the relationship between cigarette smoking and the educational achievements of BC residents. This relationship is not as strong as that for income adequacy. Nevertheless, the data do show that a substantially lower proportion of current smokers is found for residents who are university graduates (13%), and that the lowest proportion of former smokers is found among residents who did not finish high school (24%). Furthermore, the proportion of residents who have never smoked cigarettes is somewhat higher among university graduates and among those who did not finish high school (57% & 51% respectively), than among technical/ community college graduates and high school graduates (45% & 43% respectively).



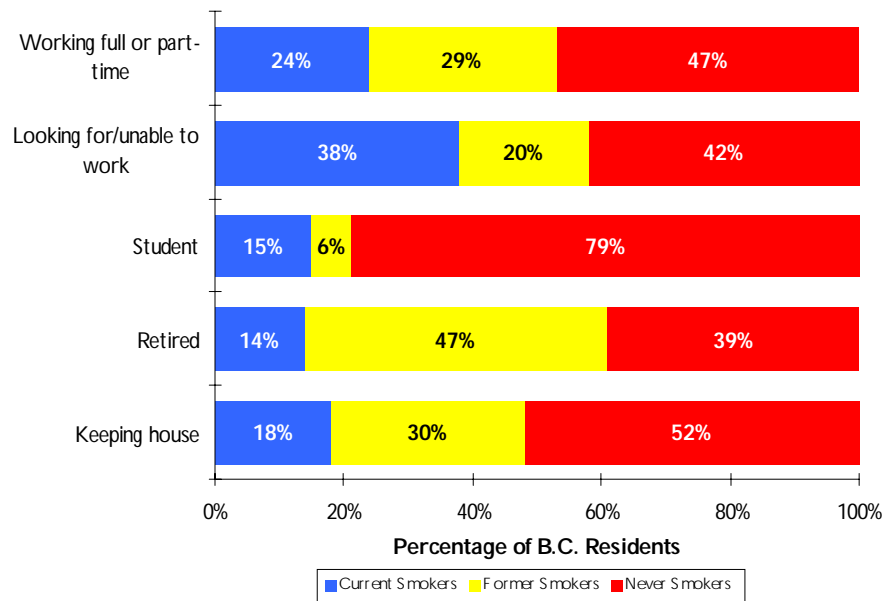
Ethnicity and Labour Force Status The next graph below exhibits the relationship between cigarette smoking and residents' ethnic/ cultural background. Several variations in the proportion of current cigarette smokers as a function of ethnic/cultural grouping are readily apparent. The percentage of current cigarette smokers is lowest for South Asians (9%) and South East Asians (11%), and highest for Aboriginal residents (43%). Additionally, the highest proportion of former smokers is found among British and European residents (34% & 30% respectively), while the lowest proportion is found among South and South East Asians (13% & 12% respectively). Finally, the percentages for residents who have never smoked cigarettes are highest among South and South East Asian residents (78% & 77% respectively) and lowest among Aboriginal residents (32%).



Current cigarettes smokers = daily smokers + non-daily smokers

An additional graph displays the relationship between cigarette smoking and residents' labour force status at the time of the survey. Variations in cigarette smoking according to labour force status are also apparent. For example, among BC residents who are either looking for work or who are unable to work the proportion of current smokers is 38%. By contrast, the proportion of current smokers among those working full or part-time is just 24%. The proportion of current cigarette smokers among students and retired residents is quite low (15% and 14% respectively), but these proportions are largely attributable to the age of these residents, rather than their labour force status. Similarly, the highest proportion of former smokers is found among retired residents (47%) and the lowest proportion is found among students (6%).

Cigarette Smoking among B.C. Residents by Labour Force Status, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997



Current cigarettes smokers = daily smokers + non-daily smokers

Summary The preceding analyses suggest that cigarette smoking in British Columbia varies substantially by a wide range of social demographic characteristics. Fairly substantial variations in the proportion of the population who currently smoke cigarettes or who formerly smoked cigarettes are evident by age, marital status, birthplace, income, education, ethnicity, and labour force status.

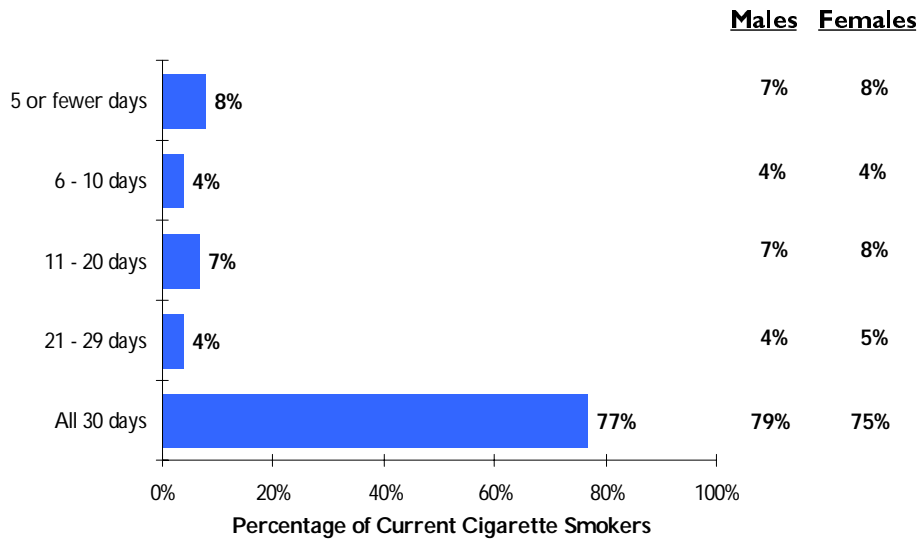
2.4 Frequency of Cigarette Smoking among Current Users

In addition to identifying current cigarette smokers in British Columbia, the survey also inquired about their frequency of smoking during the past month. All current cigarette smokers were asked on how many of the last 30 days they smoked at least one cigarette. If they smoked on 10 or fewer days in the past month, they were also asked how many cigarettes they usually smoked on these days. If they smoked on more than 10 days during the past month, they were asked how many cigarettes they smoked on each of the last seven days.

2.4.1 Days Smoked in the Past Month

The number of days in the past month in which all current cigarette smokers (daily & non-daily) had at least one cigarette is displayed the graph. Very infrequent smoking, such as on 5 or fewer days in the past month is reported by only 8% of smokers, while smoking on all 30 days was reported by fully 77% of current smokers. The graph also depicts how males are slightly more likely than females to report smoking on all 30 days in the past month (i.e., are daily smokers), at 79% vs. 75% respectively.

Days Smoked in the Past month among Current Cigarette Smokers by Gender, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997



Current cigarette smokers = daily smokers + non-daily smokers

As exhibited in the table following, this general pattern for the frequency of cigarette smoking is remarkably consistent across all four regions of the province. However, the proportion for every day cigarette smoking does appear to be slightly less in the Lower Mainland region (75%), than it does in the Southern Interior and Northern regions (81% and 80% respectively).

Days Smoked in the Past month among Current Cigarette Smokers By Region, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997					
	BC	Lower Mainland	Southern Interior	Island/Coast	North
	%	%	%	%	%
5 or fewer	8	9	6	6	7
6-10 days	4	4	4	4	4
11-20 days	7	8	5	8	6
21-29 days	4	4	4	5	3
All 30 days	77	75	81	77	80

Current cigarette smokers = daily smokers + non-daily smokers

Similarly, reports of smoking on all 30 days during the past month is least likely among 12 to 18 year old cigarette smokers at 67%, but rises with each aging grouping to 85% among cigarette smokers aged 65 years and over. Interestingly, very infrequent cigarette smoking (i.e., on 5 or fewer days in the past month) is reported by more smokers in the 19 to 24 year age group than it is in the 12 to 18 year age group (11% vs. 8% respectively). Yet, after age 25, the percentage of current cigarette smokers who smoke this infrequently declines steadily with age to just 3% in the 65 and over age group (see the table for further details).

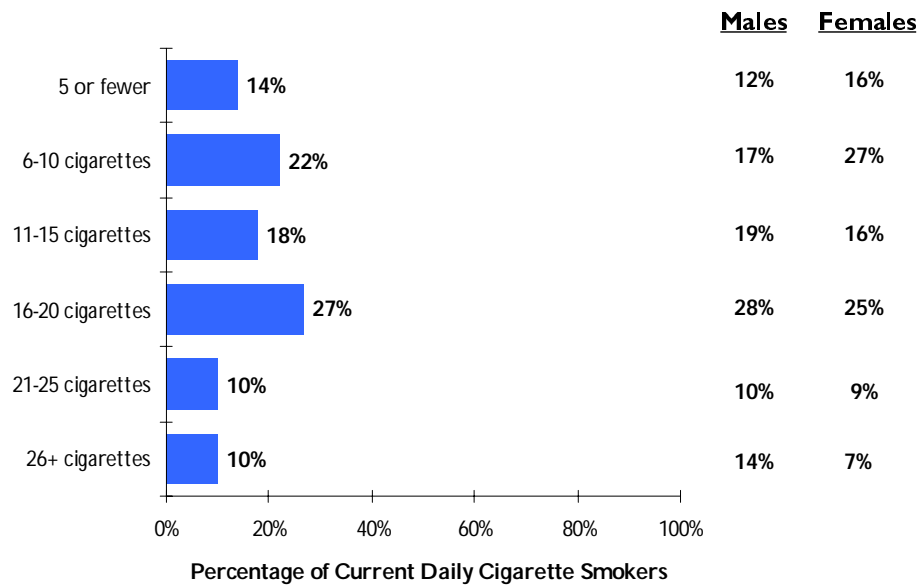
	BC	12-18 years	19-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years
	%	%	%	%	%	%
5 or fewer	8	8	11	9	5	3
6-10 days	4	5	5	4	3	2
11-20 days	7	10	9	7	6	4
21-29 days	4	9	5	4	3	5
All 30 days	77	67	70	76	84	85

Current cigarette smokers = daily smokers + non-daily smokers

2.4.2 Cigarettes per Day by Daily Smokers

Among current daily cigarette smokers in British Columbia, 14% report averaging 5 or fewer cigarettes per day, but as can be seen in the graph following, 20% report averaging more than 20 cigarettes per day. This graph also depicts how averaging 5 or fewer cigarettes per day is reported by slightly more females (16%) than males (12%). Yet males are more likely than females to report averaging more than 20 cigarettes per day (24% vs. 16%).

**Cigarettes per Day among Current Daily Cigarette Smokers
by Gender, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997**



The following table also depicts the number of cigarettes smoked per day by current daily cigarette smokers in BC, but in this instance by the age of the smoker. Reports of averaging 5 or fewer cigarettes per day are highest among 12 to 18 year olds (30%) and lowest among those aged 25 to 44 (11%) and 45 to 64 (9%). Conversely, reports of averaging more than 20 cigarettes per day are greatest among 45 to 64 year olds and those aged 65 and over (29% and 21% respectively), and least among those aged 12 to 18 years (3%). Furthermore, as shown in the table, the average number of cigarettes smoked per day is highest in the 45 to 64 year age grouping (19.2), and lowest in the 12 to 18 age group (10.5).

Cigarettes per Day among Current Daily Cigarette Smokers By Age, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997						
	BC	12-18 years	19-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years
	%	%	%	%	%	%
5 or fewer	14	30	17	11	9	19
6-10 cigarettes	22	33	32	21	18	19
11-15 cigarettes	18	19	22	19	15	14
16-20 cigarettes	27	15	21	30	29	27
21-25 cigarettes	10	2	4	10	14	8
26+ cigarettes	10	1	4	10	15	13
AVERAGE	16.6 cig	10.5 cig	13.3 cig	16.8 cig	19.2 cig	17.1 cig

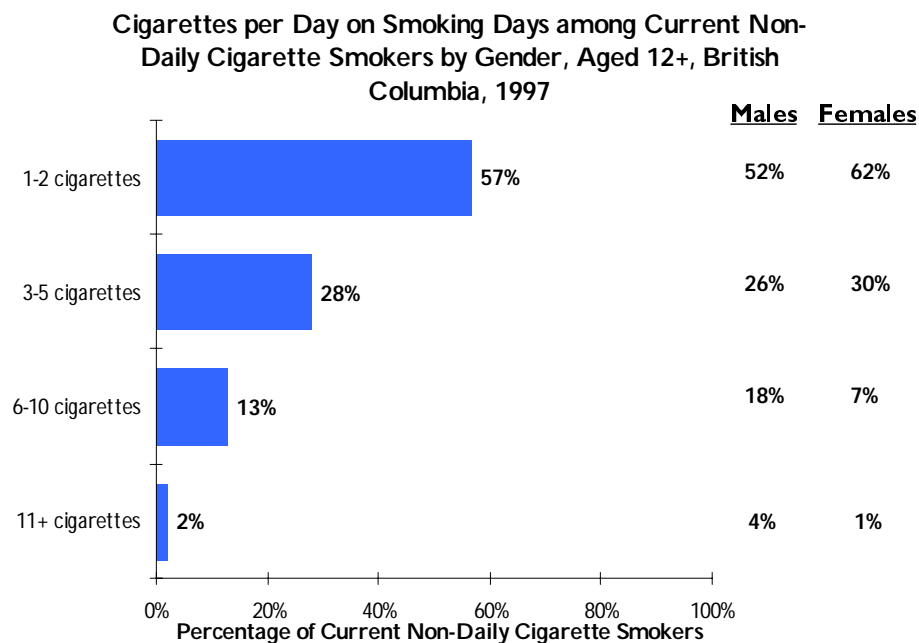
The average number cigarettes smoked per day by all daily cigarette smokers in BC is 16.6. This provincial average appears slightly lower than the national average of 19.0 cigarettes, that was reported by the 1994 Survey on Smoking in Canada (Cycle 1) for current daily cigarette smokers aged 15 years and over. However, as this survey did not include residents aged 12 to 14 years old in its sampling frame, their inclusion in the present survey partly explains this difference in the averages observed for the two surveys.

As displayed in the following table, there is some regional variation in the average number of cigarettes per day by daily smokers in BC, with a low of 15.9 in the Southern Interior to a high of 17.9 in the North. Yet, regardless of region, males report smoking more cigarettes per day on average than females (18.2 vs. 15.0 provincially). This gender difference in the average number of cigarettes per day can also be seen in the table for each of the four regions of the province.

Average Number of Cigarettes per Day Among Current Daily Cigarette Smokers By Region, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997					
	BC	Lower Mainland	Southern Interior	Island/Coast	North
	Number of Cigarettes				
All	16.6	16.7	15.9	16.6	17.9
Males	18.2	18.1	17.3	18.4	19.3
Females	15.0	15.0	14.5	14.9	16.0

2.4.3 Cigarettes per Day by Non-Daily Smokers

The number of cigarettes smoked per day by non-daily cigarette smokers in British Columbia (i.e., those who report either occasional smoking or having smoked on 1 to 29 days in the past month) are displayed in the graph to follow. By contrast to daily smokers, fully 57% of these smokers report having only 1 to 2 per day, 28% report having 3 to 5 per day, and just 2% report having 11 or more cigarettes per day on the days that they smoke. More female non-daily cigarette smokers than male non-daily cigarette smokers report averaging only 1 or 2 cigarettes per day on smoking days, at 62% vs. 52% respectively. On the other hand, as can be seen in the graph, 22% of the males report averaging 6 or more cigarettes per day on smoking days, compared to just 9% of the females.



Some age-related differences in the average number of cigarettes per day among non-daily cigarette smokers in BC are apparent from the table below. However, as sample numbers here are quite small, the reliability of these differences seems less certain. Nevertheless, the table does suggest that the average number of cigarettes per day on smoking days among non-daily smokers rises slightly with age, from 3.1 for those aged 19 to 24 years old to 3.9 for those aged 65 and over.

Cigarettes per Day on Smoking Days among Current Non-Daily Cigarette Smokers by Age, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997						
	BC	12-18 years**	19-24 years*	25-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years**
	%	%	%	%	%	%
1-2 cigarettes	57	61	52	58	57	65
3-5 cigarettes	28	22	44	25	24	15
6-10 cigarettes	13	14	3	15	16	18
11+ cigarettes	2	2	2	3	3	2
AVERAGE	3.5 cig	3.2 cig	3.1 cig	3.6 cig	3.8 cig	3.9 cig
<i>*Interpret with caution, subsample base size less than 100</i>						
<i>**Interpret with extreme caution, subsample base size less than 50</i>						

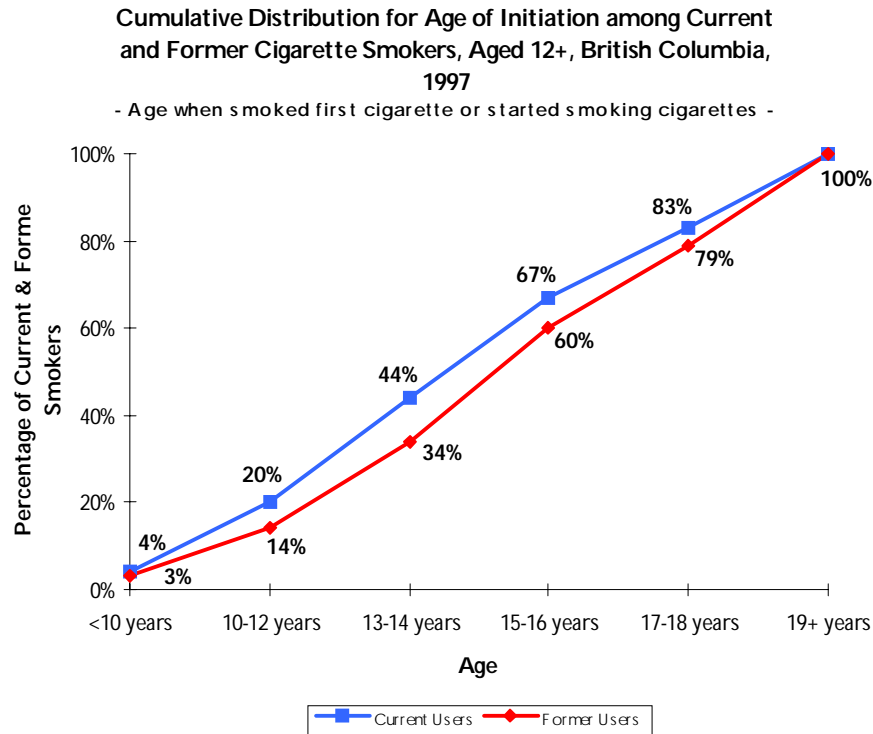
The average number of cigarettes per day for all non-daily cigarette smokers in the province is 3.5. As shown in the table below, this provincial average is quite consistent with those for non-daily cigarette smokers throughout each region of the province. Yet, regardless of region, male non-daily smokers report averaging slightly more cigarettes per day on smoking days than do female non-daily cigarette smokers (4.0 vs. 3.0 provincially).

Average Number of Cigarettes per Day on Smoking Days among Current Non-Daily Cigarette Smokers by Region, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997					
	BC	Lower Mainland	Southern Interior	Island/ Coast	North
	Number of Cigarettes				
All	3.5	3.3	4.0	3.7	3.8
Males	4.0	3.7	4.2	4.7	4.4
Females	3.0	2.9	3.7	2.7	3.2

2.5 Age of Initiation for Cigarette Smoking

Both former and current cigarette smokers identified by the survey were asked their age when they first started smoking. They were asked either their age when they smoked their first whole cigarette (if aged 12 to 19 years), or alternatively, their age when they first started smoking cigarettes (if aged 20 years and older).

The cumulative age of initiation for cigarette smoking among B.C. residents is displayed in the following graph for current and former smokers. Among **current** cigarette smokers, 20% began smoking before the age of 13, 44% began before the age of 15 and 83% before the age of 19. The average age of initiation for B.C. residents aged 12 and over who currently smoke cigarettes is 15.7 years. The pattern of responses among **former** cigarette smokers is shifted to older age categories, with 14% indicating they began before the age of 13, 34% before age 15 and 79% before age 19. The average age of initiation among these former smokers is 16.4 years.



2.5.1 Cigarette Smoking

The cumulative age of initiation for cigarette smoking among residents of British Columbia for current daily smokers, current non-daily smokers, former daily smokers, and former non-daily smokers is displayed in the following table. Among current daily cigarette smokers, 21% began smoking before the age of 13, 45% began smoking before age 15 and 84% began smoking before age 19. It seems noteworthy that this last age of 19, is now the legal age for the purchase of tobacco products in B.C. Among current non-daily smokers, 17% began smoking before age 13, 39% began before age 15, and 79% began before age 19. This pattern of responses is similar among former smokers as well, with 14% of former daily smokers indicating they began before the age of 13, 34% began before age 15 and 79% began before age 19. Finally, among former non-daily smokers, 14% began before age 13, 32% before age 15 and 74% before age 19.

Cumulative Distribution for Age of Initiation among Current and Former Cigarette Smokers, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997 - Age When Smoked First Cigarette or Started Smoking Cigarettes -				
	Current Daily	Current Non-Daily	Former Daily	Former Non-Daily
	%	%	%	%
<10 years	5	2	3	2
10-12 years	21	17	14	14
13-14 years	45	39	34	32
15-16 years	69	62	60	58
17-18 years	84	79	79	74
>19 years	100	100	100	100

As shown in the next table, the average age of initiation for BC residents who are current daily cigarette smokers is slightly lower at 15.5 years. By comparison, the average age of initiation for current non-daily smokers is 16.3 years, for former daily smokers it is also 16.3 years, and it is 17.1 years for former non-daily smokers. Moreover, these average ages for the onset of cigarette smoking are quite consistent across all regions of the province.

Average Age of Initiation among Cigarette Smokers by Region, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997 - Age When Smoked First Cigarette or Started Smoking Cigarettes -					
	BC	Lower Mainland	Southern Interior	Island/Coast	North
	Years	Years	Years	Years	Years
Current Daily	15.5	15.7	15.5	15.2	15.1
Current Non-Daily	16.3	16.3	16.2	16.6	15.4
Current	15.7	15.8	15.6	15.5	15.2
Former Daily	16.3	16.5	16.1	16.4	15.9
Former Non-Daily	17.1	17.0	18.0	17.0	16.8
Former	16.4	16.5	16.2	16.3	15.9

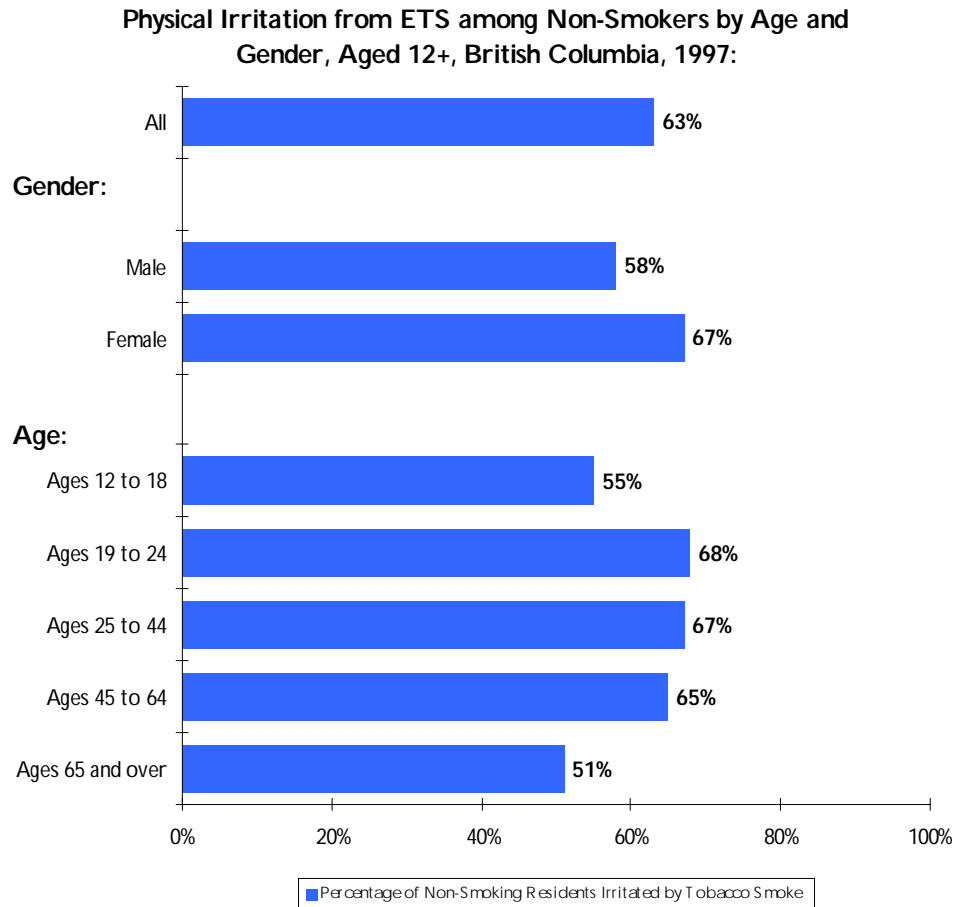
2.6 Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) among Non-Smokers

In addition to inquiring directly about tobacco use, the survey also asked residents of British Columbia about their exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) or secondhand smoke, in their own homes, at work and school and in other public places. Being exposed to ETS was defined as spending at least 10 minutes in an enclosed area where someone is smoking or in a room where people are smoking.

2.6.1 Irritation from Exposure to ETS

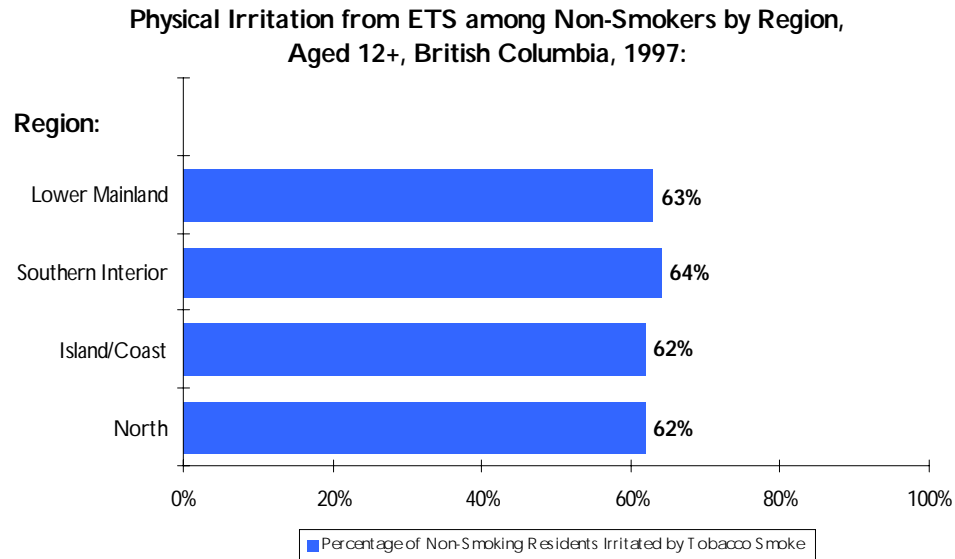
The survey asked, "if tobacco smoke usually causes physical irritation to your eyes, your breathing or your throat." "Yes" responses to this question are outlined in the following graph. Overall, 63% of non-smokers (i.e., those residents who do not currently use cigarettes, cigars or a pipe) report they are usually physically irritated by ETS. Even 39% of current smokers acknowledged they were usually irritated by tobacco smoke (data not shown).

Gender differences in the proportion of non-smokers irritated by tobacco smoke are evident in the following graph, with 58% of males versus 67% of females indicating they are usually irritated by ETS. Some age-related differences among non-smokers are also evident in the graph. Being irritated by ETS was reported by just 55% of non-smoking residents aged 12 to 18 years and by 51% of those aged 65 and over, compared to 68% among those aged 19 to 24 and 67% of those aged 25 to 44.



Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.

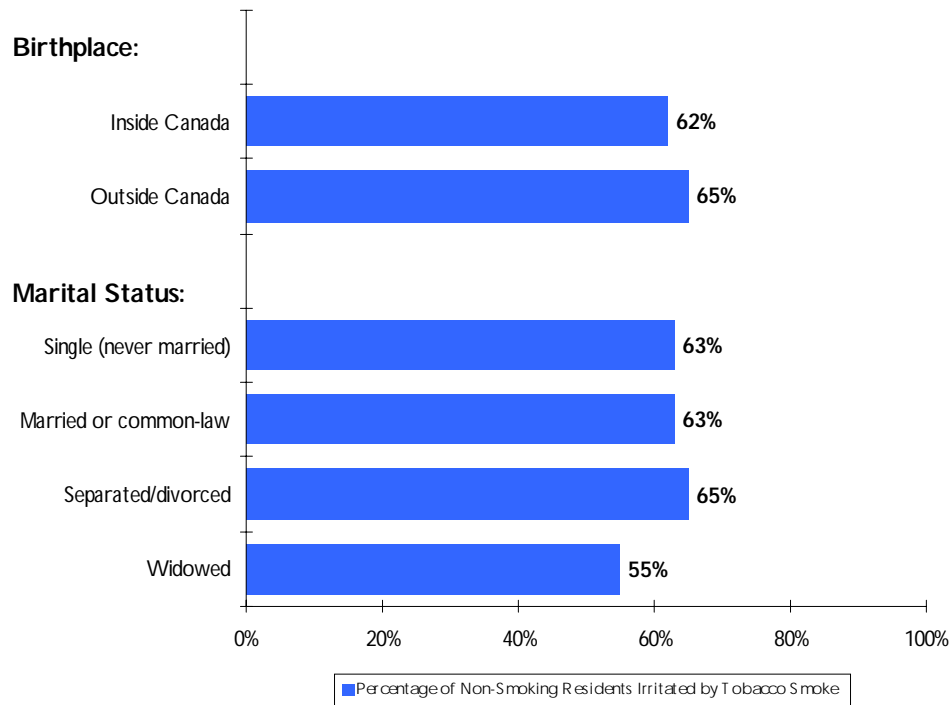
As displayed in the next graph, the 63% of non-smokers in the province who say they are usually irritated by ETS, does not vary appreciably depending on the region in which these non-smokers presently reside.



Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.

Similarly, as shown in the next graph, whether non-smoking residents are Canadian born or foreign born has little to do with being irritated by ETS. However, the proportion of residents who are usually irritated by ETS is generally lower among widowed residents (55%), than it is among residents who are either single, married, separated or divorced.

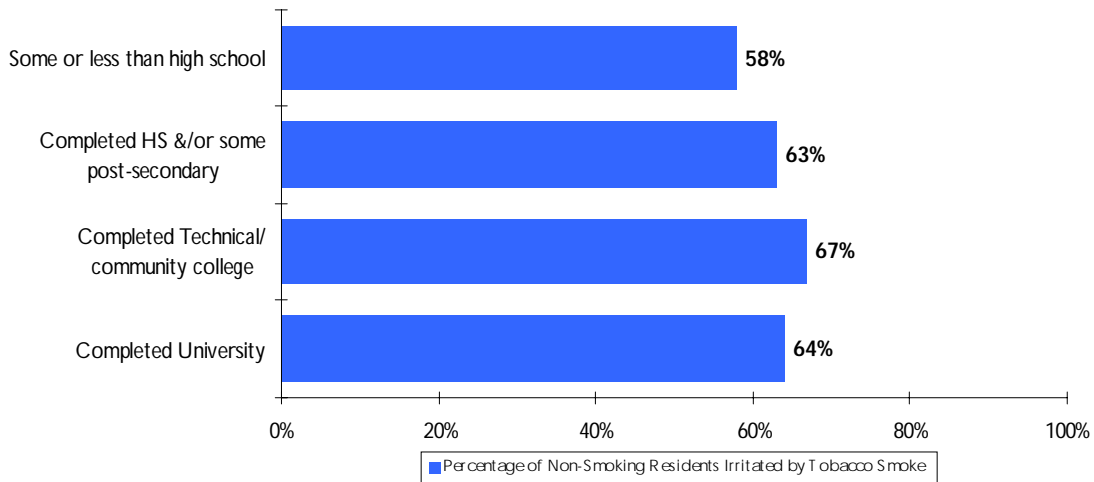
**Physical Irritation from ETS among Non-Smokers by Birthplace
and Marital Status, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997:**



Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.

Some variation in the proportion of non-smokers who are usually irritated by ETS is also evident for education in the following graph. This proportion is lowest among residents who did not finish high school (58%) and highest among residents who are graduates of a technical or community college (67%).

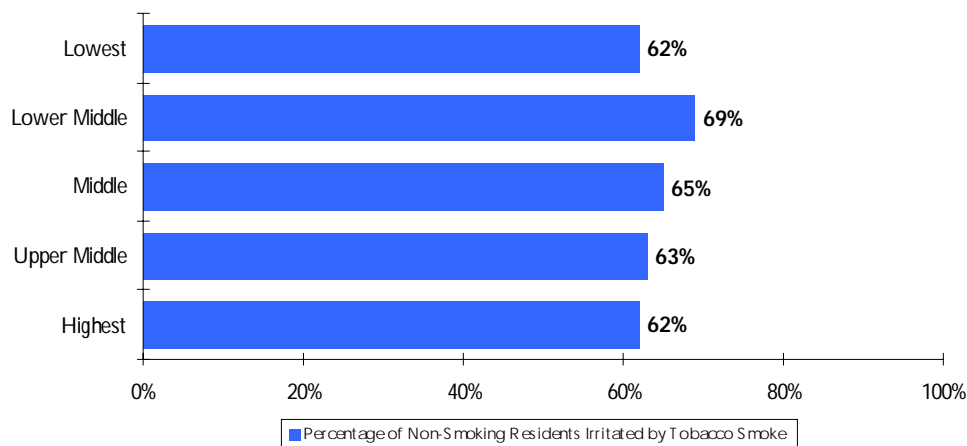
Physical Irritation from ETS among Non-Smokers by Education, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997:



Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.

In addition, modest differences in the proportion of non-smoking residents that are usually irritated by ETS are evident according to income adequacy as shown below. Residents with a lower middle income adequacy level are most likely to report being irritated by ETS (69%).

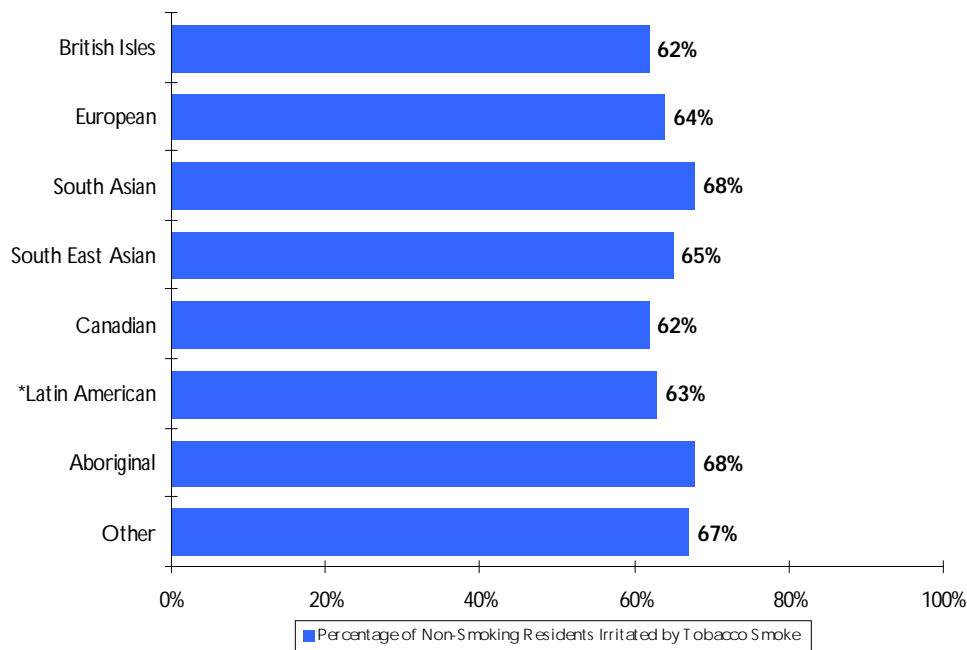
Physical Irritation from ETS among Non-Smokers by Income Adequacy, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997:



Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.

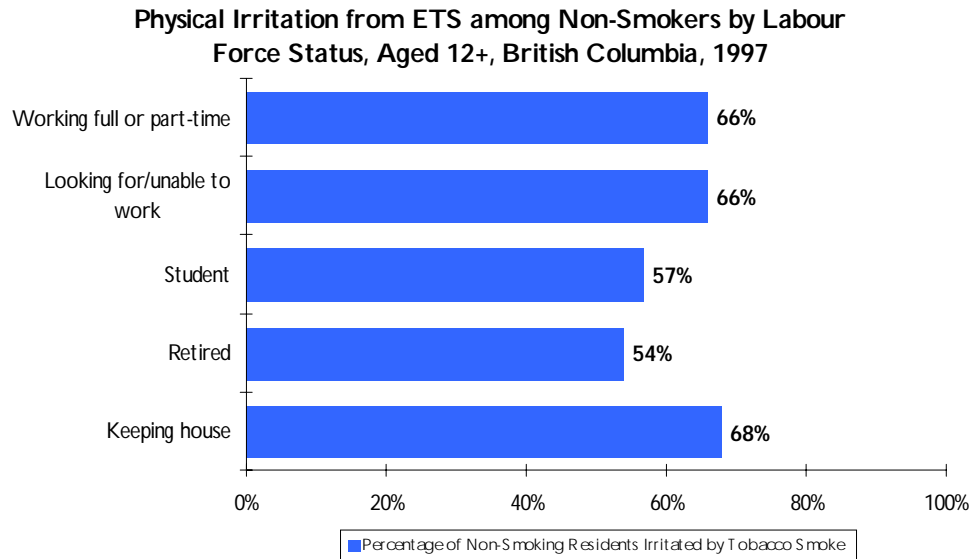
Some minor differences in the proportion of non-smoking residents who are irritated by ETS as a function of ethnic or cultural background are displayed in the graph below. British residents are least likely to say they are usually irritated by ETS (62%), while South Asian and Aboriginals are most likely to report being irritated by ETS (both at 68%).

**Physical Irritation from ETS among Non-Smokers by Ethnicity,
Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997:**



*Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.
Interpret with caution, subsample base size less than 100

Finally, differences in irritation from ETS by labour force status are depicted in the following graph. A generally lower proportion of non-smokers are irritated by ETS, if they are currently students (57%) or are retired (54%). However, the lower rates for these particular groups are probably more a function of age than labour force participation, as they closely mirror the findings for residents aged 12 to 18 and 65 years and over.



Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.

2.6.2 Overall Exposure to ETS

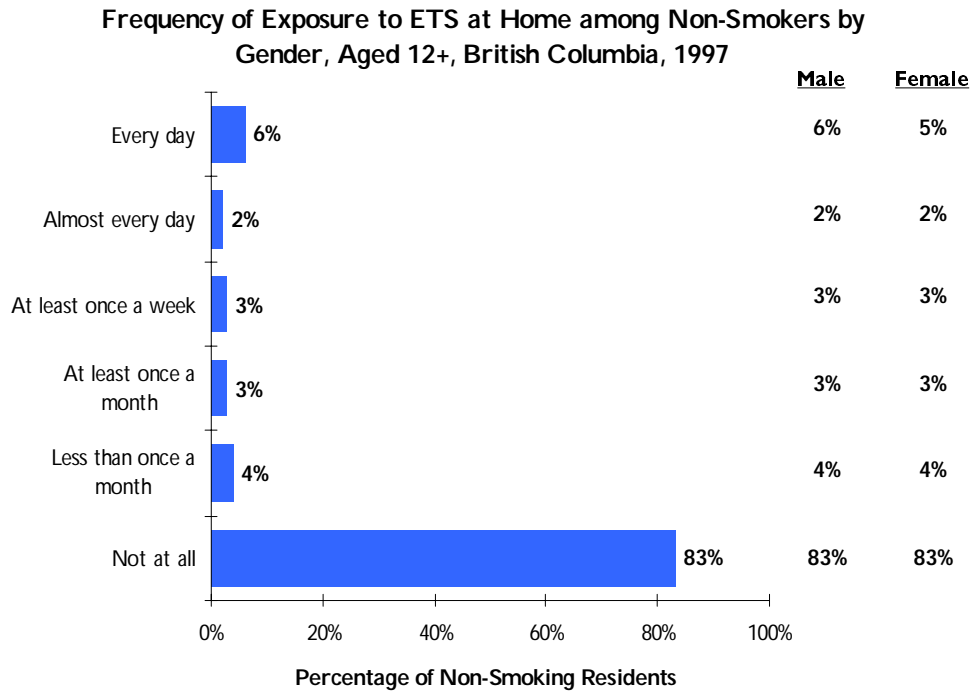
The following table combines some of the survey findings concerning exposure to ETS for all non-smoking residents of the province, and displays the percentage who have daily or nearly daily exposure to ETS at home, at work or school, and in other public settings, separately. More importantly, however, this figure shows that 18% of the non-smoking residents of BC are exposed to ETS every day or nearly every day in at least one of these three different types of settings. As shown in the table, this proportion varies somewhat from region to region with a low of 15% in the Lower Mainland to a high of 29% in the Northern region.

Exposure to ETS Every Day or Nearly Every Day among Non-Smokers, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997					
	BC	Lower Mainland	Southern Interior	Island/Coast	North
	%	%	%	%	%
At home	7%	6%	9%	8%	12%
At work/school	9%	8%	10%	8%	15%
Other indoor setting	6%	5%	8%	5%	11%
Any of the above	18%	15%	21%	17%	29%

Furthermore, when these proportions are combined with the data presented on the proportion of the residents who are current tobacco users, one can readily estimate the percentage of residents, provincially and regionally, whose health is being adversely affected by tobacco. For example, in B.C., 23% of all residents are current tobacco users, and 14% of all residents (or 18% of non-smokers) are exposed to ETS every day or nearly every day at home, work, school or other public settings. Therefore, in BC today, the health status of at least 37% of the population aged 12+ is being threatened by tobacco use. This same percentage on a regional basis is 33% for the Lower Mainland region, 36% for the Island/Coast region, 41% for the Southern Interior region, and 50% for the Northern region.

2.6.3 Exposure to ETS at Home

Frequency of Exposure For non-smoking residents, the survey's response options for frequency of exposure to ETS inside your own home included: every day, nearly every day, at least once a week, at least once a month, less than once a month, and not at all. As shown in the next graph, 8% of non-smokers in the province report being exposed to ETS inside their home on a daily or nearly daily basis. On the other hand, 83% report no exposure to ETS at all in their homes. These percentages are almost identical for both male and female residents who do not currently smoke (see graph for details).



Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.

Frequency of exposure to ETS at home among non-smokers according to age is presented in the table below. In general, daily or nearly daily exposure to ETS at home appears to decline with age, from 20% among residents aged 12 to 18 to just 4% among residents aged 65 and over. Additionally, not being exposed to ETS at all in your home is much less likely among residents aged 12 to 18 years old (67%).

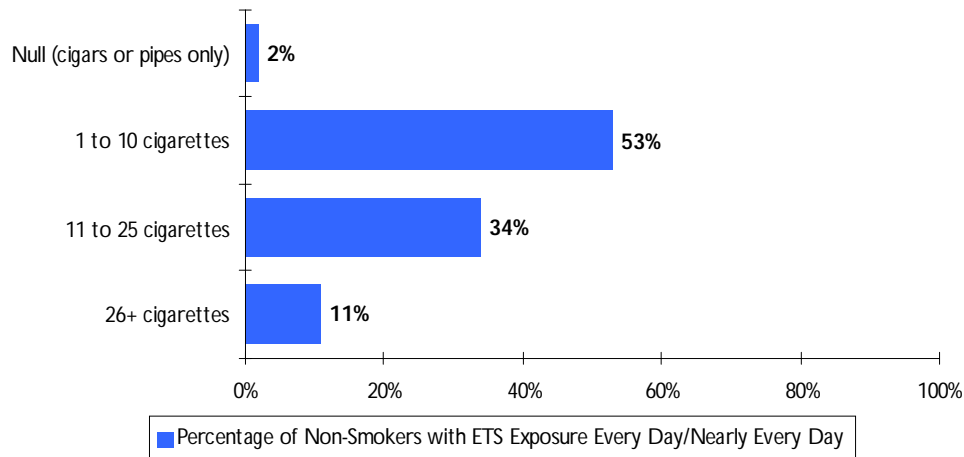
	BC	12-18 years	19-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Every day	6	14	7	4	5	3
Almost every day	2	6	3	1	1	1
At least once a week	3	5	5	3	2	3
At least once a month	3	3	3	3	2	3
Less than once a month	4	4	2	4	4	4
Not at all	83	67	81	85	85	87

Regional differences in ETS exposure at home are depicted in the following table. Daily or nearly daily exposure to ETS at home among non-smokers is highest in the North region at 12% and lowest in the Lower Mainland area at 7%. Conversely, no exposure to ETS at all at home is reported most by residents of the Lower Mainland (86%) and least by residents of the Northern region (73%).

Frequency of Exposure to ETS at Home among Non-Smokers by Region, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997					
	BC	Lower Mainland	Southern Interior	Island/ Coast	North
	%	%	%	%	%
Every day	6	5	8	6	9
Almost every day	2	2	2	2	3
At least once a week	3	3	3	3	4
At least once a month	3	2	3	3	5
Less than once a month	4	3	5	5	6
Not at all	83	86	80	82	73

Non-smoking residents of BC who are exposed to ETS inside their homes every day or nearly every day, were also asked how many cigarettes are smoked inside your home on a typical day. Fifty-three percent of these residents indicated they are exposed to the smoke from 1 to 10 cigarettes per day and 34% reported they are exposed to the smoke from 11 to 25 cigarettes per day (see graph). The average number of cigarettes smoked inside these BC homes on a typical day is 14.3.

Number of Cigarettes Smoked Inside Home among Non-Smokers with Every Day or Nearly Every Day Exposure to ETS, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997



Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.

The average number of cigarettes smoked inside households with daily or nearly daily ETS exposure ranges from 13.1 in the Island Coast region, to 14.0 in the Southern Interior region, to 14.2 in the Lower Mainland region, to 16.7 in the Northern region.

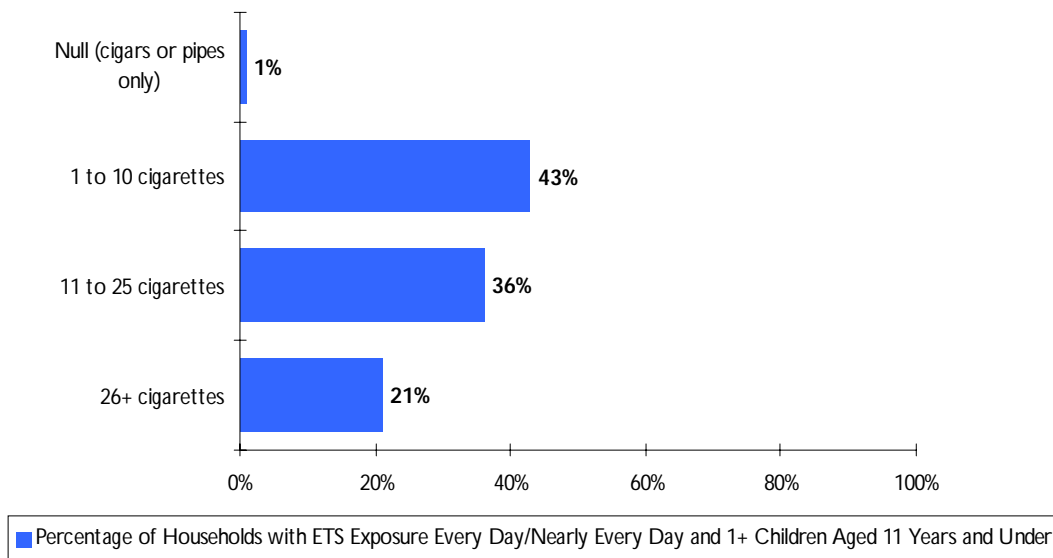
Households with Children Frequency of ETS exposure in households in BC with children aged 11 and under are highlighted in the next table. In 18% of these households there is daily or nearly daily exposure to ETS, and in 72% there is no ETS exposure at all.

Furthermore, as shown in the table, the proportion of households with children which also have daily or nearly daily ETS exposure, ranges from just 15% in the Lower Mainland region to about 20% in the Southern Interior and Island/Coast regions, to 25% in the Northern region.

Frequency of Exposure to ETS at Homes with Children Aged 11 Years and Under by Region, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997					
	BC	Lower Mainland	Southern Interior	Island/Coast	North
	%	%	%	%	%
Every day	15	12	17	15	22
Almost every day	3	3	3	4	3
At least once a week	4	4	4	4	5
At least once a month	3	2	3	3	4
Less than once a month	3	3	4	4	4
Not at all	72	76	69	71	63

The number of cigarettes smoked inside the households with children aged 12 and under, and which have daily or nearly daily exposure to ETS, are displayed in the following graph. Forty-three percent of these residents indicated members of their household are typically exposed to the smoke from 1 to 10 cigarettes per day, 36% say their exposed to the smoke from 11 to 25 cigarettes per day, and 21% say their exposed to the smoke of 26+ cigarettes per day. The average number of cigarettes smoked inside these BC homes on a typical day is 18.2. Comparable averages for such homes in the regions include: 17.9 in the Lower Mainland, 17.9 in the Island/Coast, 18.1 in the Southern Interior, and 19.3 in the Northern region.

Number of Cigarettes Smoked Inside Homes with Children Aged 11 Years and Under with Every Day or Nearly Every Day ETS Exposure, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997

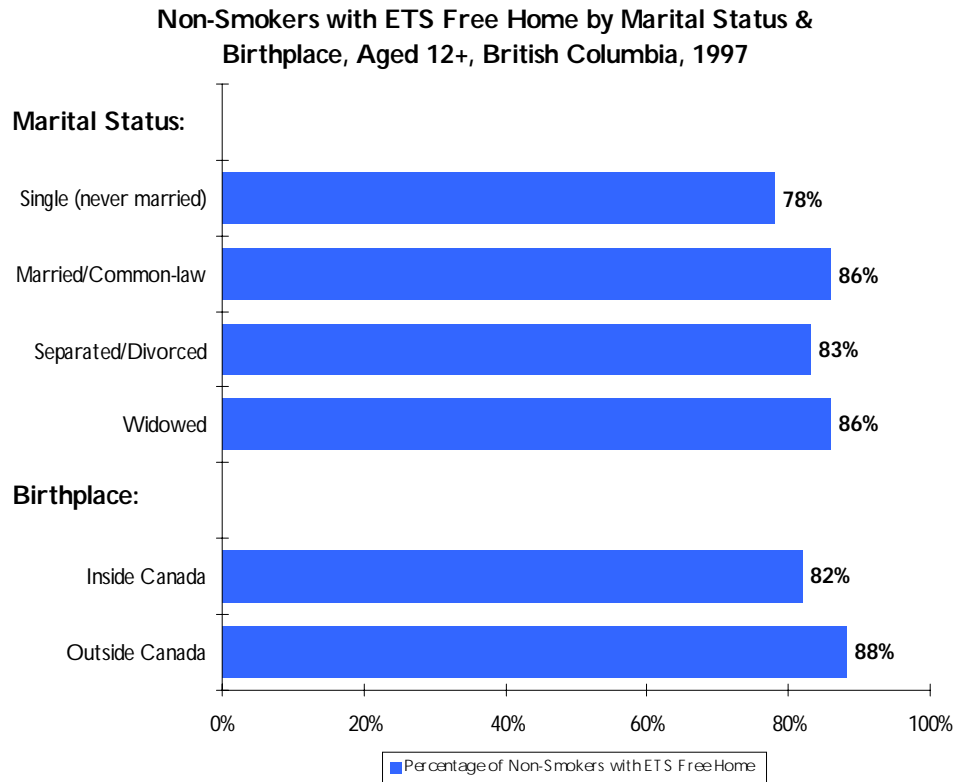


ETS Free Households As already noted above, non-smoking residents of British Columbia who live in households with no ETS exposure at all are equally likely to be male or female, but are more likely to live in such households if they are aged 65 years and over (see table below) or if they reside in the Lower Mainland region (see table on the next page).

Frequency of Exposure to ETS at Home among Non-Smokers by Age, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997						
	BC	12-18 years	19-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Every day	6	14	7	4	5	3
Almost every day	2	6	3	1	1	1
At least once a week	3	5	5	3	2	3
At least once a month	3	3	3	3	2	3
Less than once a month	4	4	2	4	4	4
Not at all	83	67	81	85	85	87

Frequency of Exposure to ETS at Home among Non-Smokers by Region, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997					
	BC	Lower Mainland	Southern Interior	Island/ Coast	North
	%	%	%	%	%
Every day	6	5	8	6	9
Almost every day	2	2	2	2	3
At least once a week	3	3	3	3	4
At least once a month	3	2	3	3	5
Less than once a month	4	3	5	5	6
Not at all	83	86	80	82	73

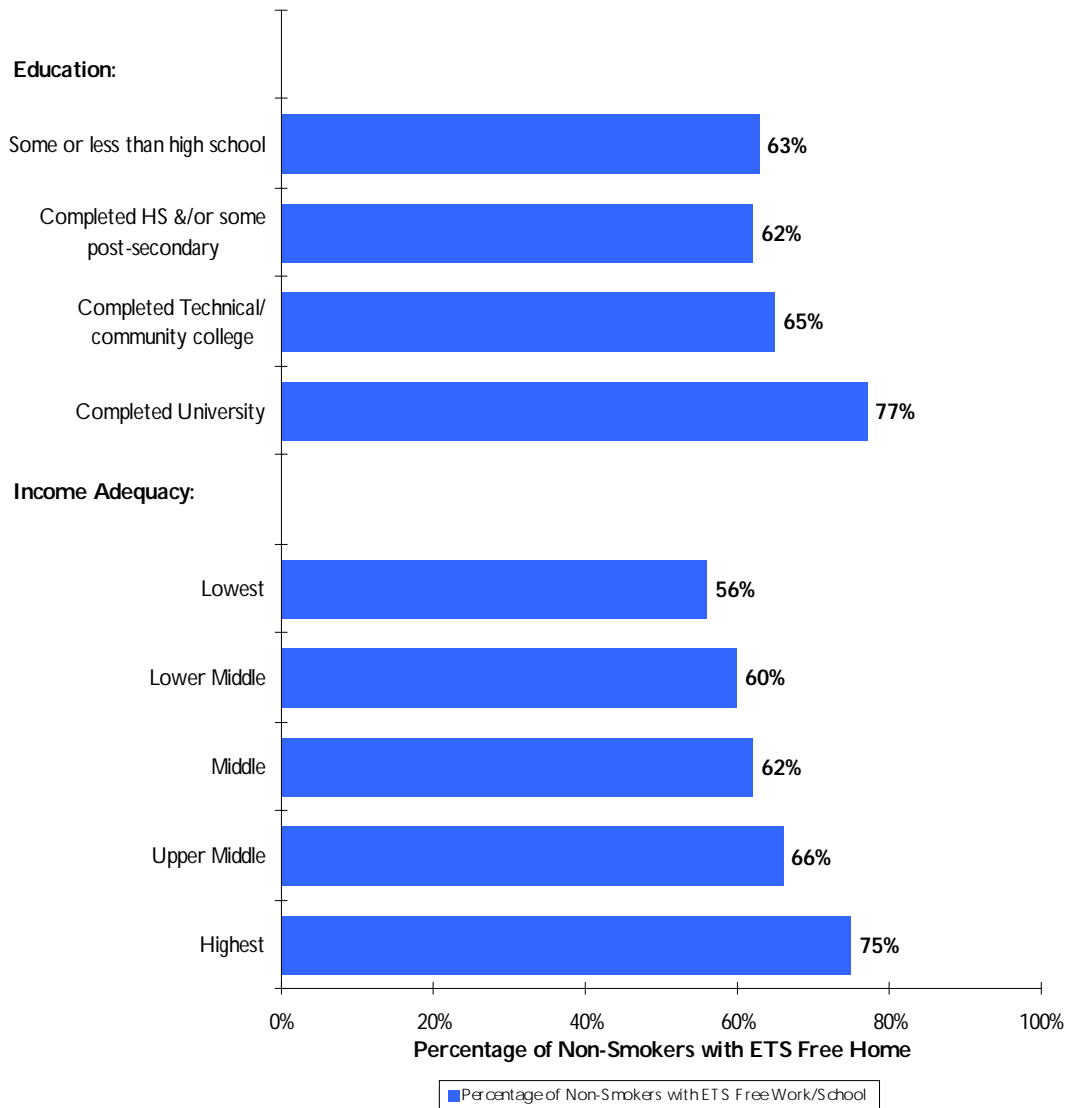
Living in a household with no ETS exposure at all is also slightly more likely among BC residents who were born outside of Canada, in comparison to those born in Canada (88% vs. 82%). Similarly, as shown in the graph to follow, single residents are least likely to live in household with no ETS exposure at all (78%), while married and widowed residents are most likely to live in a ETS free household (86%).



Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.

An ETS free household is also associated with the income adequacy of the household, and the educational achievements of its residents. As exhibited in the following graph, just 77% of residents with lower middle income adequacy live in households without any ETS exposure at all, but this percentage rises to 88% among residents with the highest income adequacy level. A similar difference is apparent between residents with less than a high school education and those who are university graduates, with 73% versus 91% living in households without any ETS (see graph following).

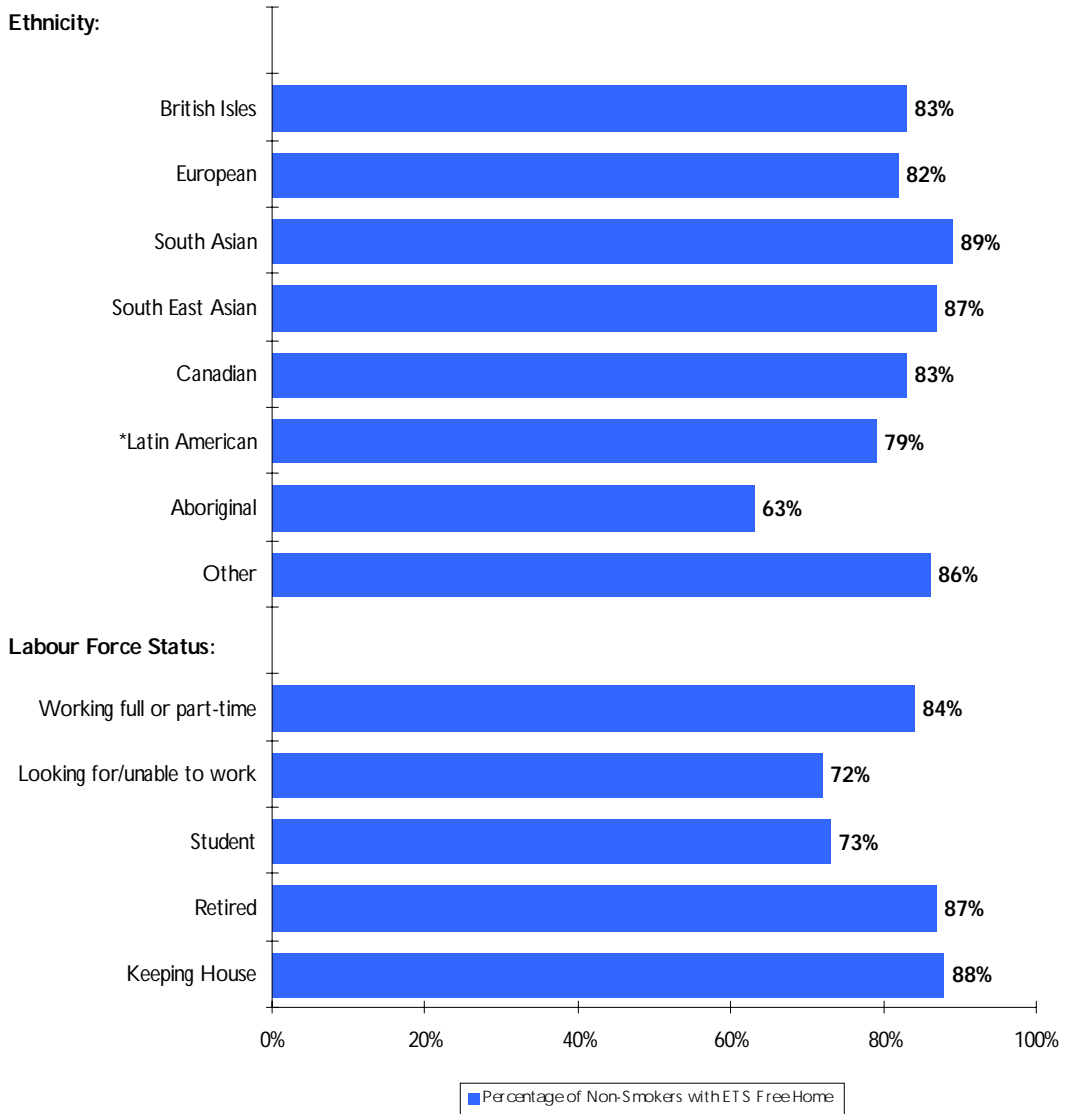
Non-Smokers with ETS Free Work/School By Income Adequacy & Education, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997



Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.

The next graph displays the same relationship for the ethnicity and labour force status of BC residents. Living in an ETS free household is higher among members of the South East and South Asian groups (87% & 89% respectively), but is notably lower among or Aboriginal groups (63%).

Non-Smokers with ETS Free Home by Ethnicity & Labour Force Status, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997



*Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.
 Interpret with caution, subsample base size less than 100

Differences in the probability of living in an ETS free household according to labour force status are also more apparent in the above graph. For example, residents who are students and those who are looking for work or are unable to work, are least likely to live in an ETS free household (73% and 72% respectively). Conversely, residents who are

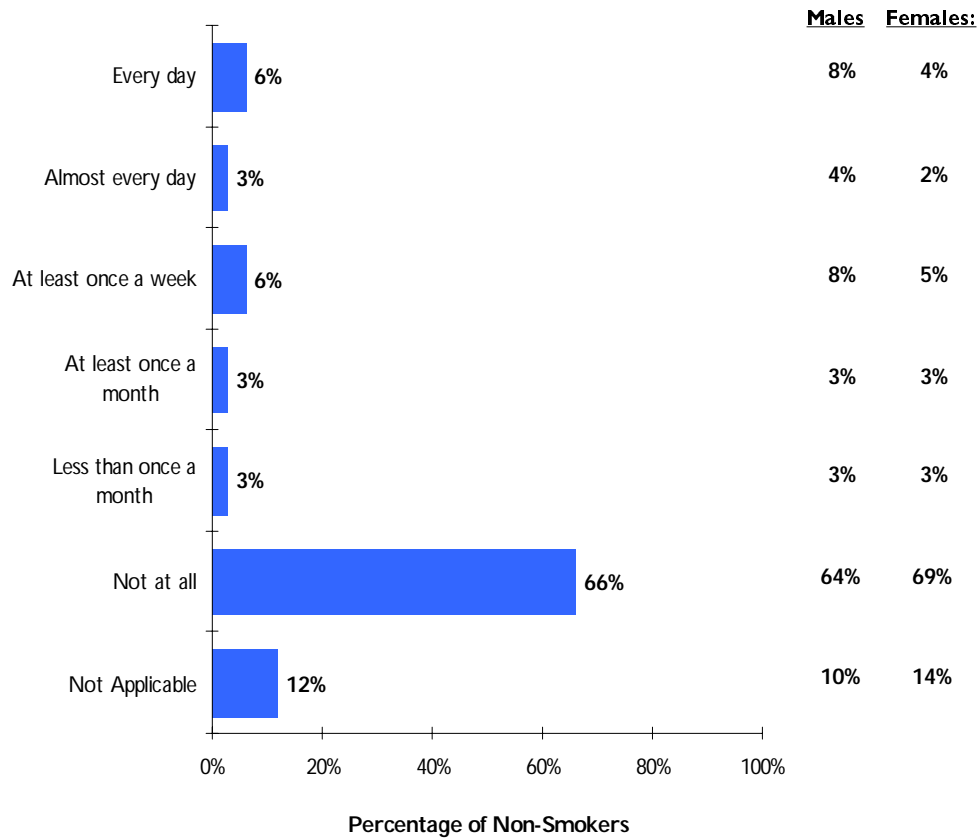
presently retired or are keeping house are most likely to live in an ETS free household (87% and 88%, respectively).

2.6.4 Exposure to ETS at Work or School

Non-smokers in British Columbia were also asked about exposure to ETS at work or school. Response options for frequency of exposure to ETS at work or school included: every day, nearly every day, at least once a week, at least once a month, less than once a month, and not at all.

As shown in the graph to follow, just 9% of all non-smokers report exposure to ETS every day or nearly every day when at work or school, while 66% say they are not exposed to ETS at all. Males are more likely than females to report ETS exposure every day or nearly every day (12% vs. 6%). Conversely, females are slightly more likely than males to report no exposure at all to ETS at work or school (69% vs. 64%).

Frequency of Exposure to ETS at Work or School among Non-Smokers by Gender, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997



Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.

Age-related differences in the frequency of exposure to ETS among non-smokers while at work or school are exhibited in the table to follow. Every day or nearly every day exposure to ETS is considerably higher among non-smokers aged 19 to 24 (19%), than it is among all other age groupings.

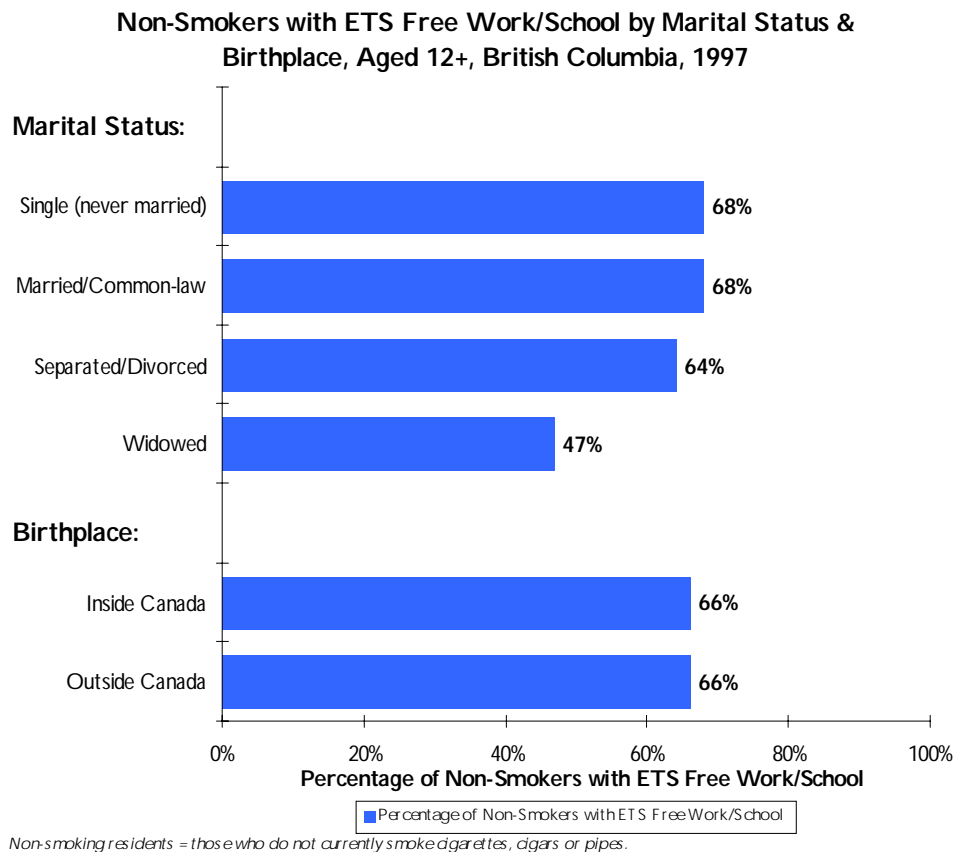
	BC	12-18 years	19-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Every day	6	4	13	7	6	1
Almost every day	3	4	6	4	2	1
At least once a week	6	10	10	7	6	3
At least once a month	3	3	5	4	3	1
Less than once a month	3	5	4	4	3	2
Not at all	66	73	61	73	72	42
Not applicable	12	0	1	2	9	51

Frequency of exposure to ETS among non-smokers while at work or school is presented in the table below, for each region of the province. Every day or nearly every day exposure while at work or school is lowest in the Lower Mainland region (8%) and highest in the Northern region (15%). Conversely, no ETS exposure at all while at work or school is highest in the Lower Mainland (70%) and lowest in the Southern Interior (59%) and the Northern region (58%).

	BC	Lower Mainland	Southern Interior	Island/Coast	North
	%	%	%	%	%
Every day	6	5	7	5	10
Almost every day	3	3	4	4	5
At least once a week	6	6	7	6	10
At least once a month	3	3	3	3	5
Less than once a month	3	3	4	3	3
Not at all	66	70	59	65	58
Not applicable	12	10	16	16	9

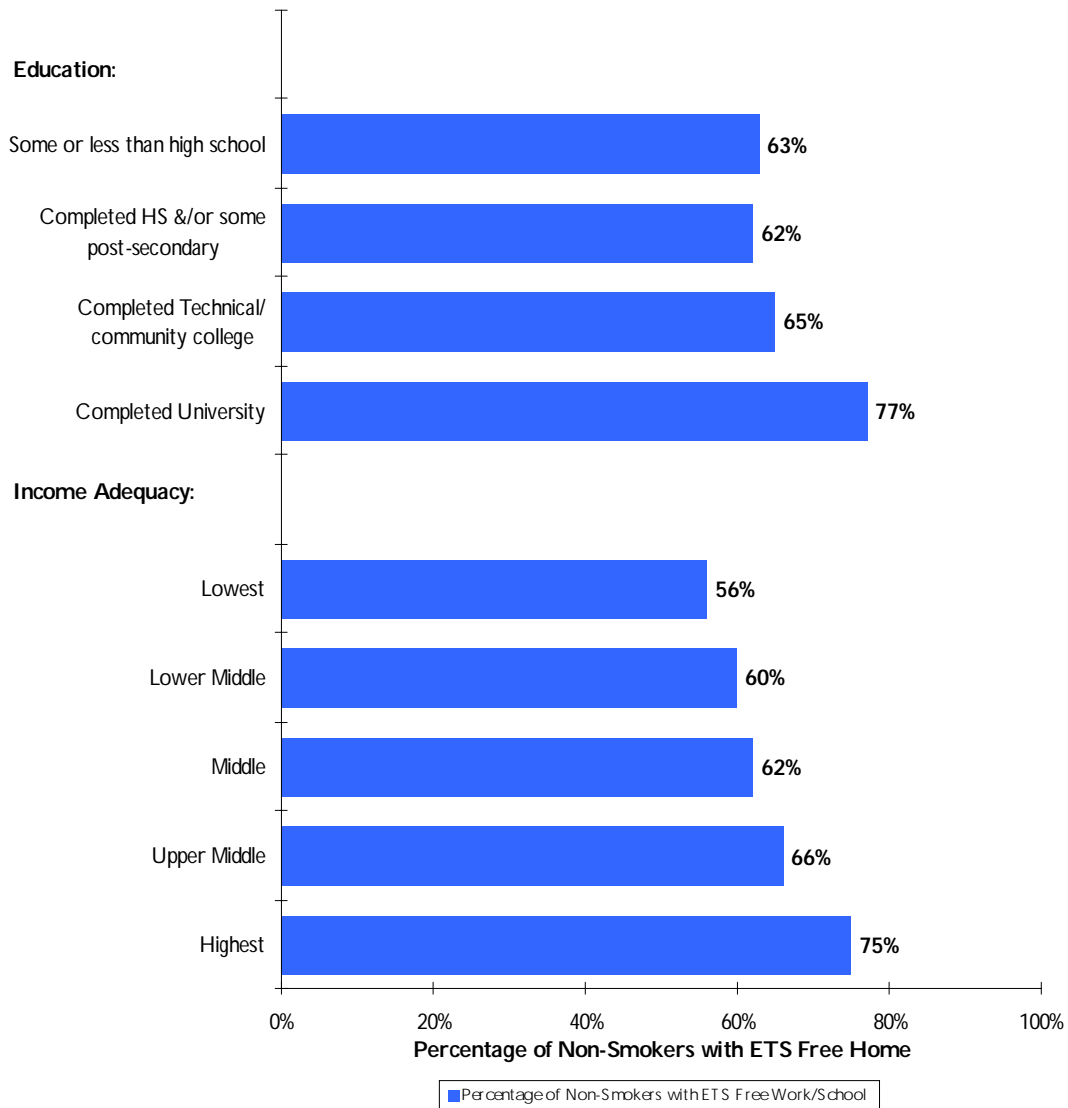
An ETS Free Work or School Environment As already noted above, non-smoking residents of British Columbia who are not exposed to ETS at all while at work or school are more likely to be female, are aged 12 to 18 or over the age of 25, or currently reside in the Lower Mainland region (see previous tables).

Working or attending school in an ETS free environment is equally likely among non-smoking residents who are Canadian born versus foreign born (see graph below). Likewise, a very similar proportion of non-smoking residents who are single, married and separated/divorced report working or attending school in an ETS free environment. Only widowed residents are less likely to report an ETS free work setting, however about 47% of this group report they do not work or attend school.



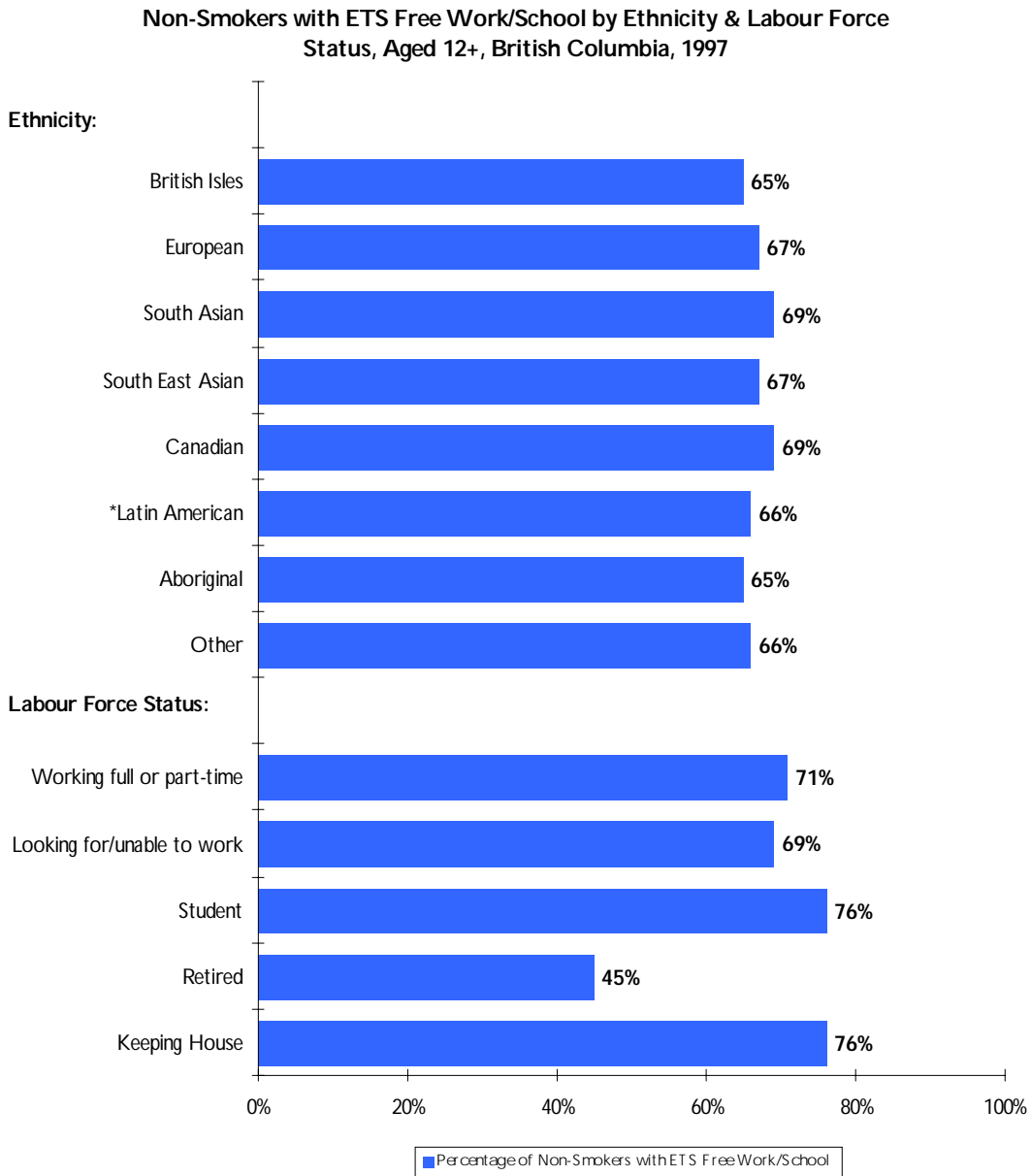
Yet an ETS free work or school environment is associated with the income adequacy of the household, and the educational achievements of its residents. As exhibited in the next graph, just 56% of non-smoking residents with the lowest level of income adequacy report working or attending school in an ETS free setting, but this percentage rises steadily across income levels to 75% among residents with the highest income adequacy level. A similar difference is apparent between non-smoking residents with less than a high school education or a high school education (63% and 62% respectively), compared to those who are university graduates (77%).

Non-Smokers with ETS Free Work/School By Income Adequacy & Education, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997



Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.

The graph below displays the same relationship for the ethnicity and labour force status of BC residents. Working or attending school in an ETS free environment is about the same for all of the non-smoking members of the ethnic/cultural groups shown.



*Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.
 Interpret with caution, subsample size less than 100

Differences in the probability of having an ETS free work or school setting according to labour force status are marginally stronger in the previous graph. For example, non-smoking residents who are students or are keeping house are slightly more likely to be ETS free (76%), than are residents who are looking for work/unable to work or are presently employed (69% vs. 71% respectively). Relatively few retired residents report an

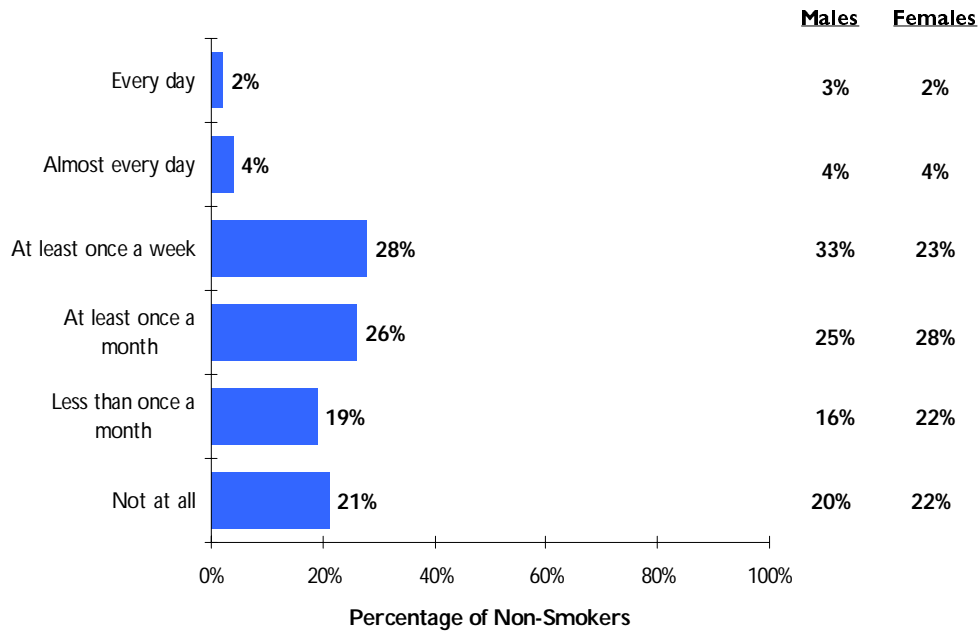
ETS free work setting (45%), however, almost 48% of this group report they do not work or attend school.

2.6.5 Exposure to ETS in Other Indoor Settings

Finally, all of the non-smokers in the province were asked, "apart from your home and place of work/school, are you exposed to tobacco smoke in any other indoor settings, such as other people's homes, bars or restaurants". Response options for frequency of exposure to ETS in other indoor setting also included: every day, nearly every day, at least once a week, at least once a month, less than once a month, and not at all.

As shown in the next graph, some level of exposure to ETS in indoor settings such as other people's homes, restaurants or on transportation is reported by 79% of the non-smoking residents of the province. Daily or nearly daily exposure in such settings is reported by just 6% of the non-smoking residents. This percentage appears to be about the same for males and females (7% and 6% respectively). Yet, more males than females report at least weekly exposure (33% vs. 23%). Finally, as shown in the graph, 20% of males and 22% of females report no exposure at all in such other indoor settings.

Frequency of Exposure to ETS in Other Indoor Settings among Non-Smokers by Gender, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997



Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.

Age-related differences in frequency of exposure to ETS in other indoor settings are depicted in the table below. Every day or nearly everyday exposure to ETS by non-smoking residents is generally higher among those aged 12 to 18 (10%) and those aged 19 to 24 (15%). Conversely, no exposure at all in other indoor settings is highest among those aged 65 and over.

Frequency of Exposure to ETS in Other Indoor Settings among Non-Smokers by Gender, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997						
	BC	12-18 years	19-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Every day	2	4	4	2	2	1
Almost every day	4	6	11	3	3	1
At least once a week	28	28	42	31	27	18
At least once a month	26	27	24	31	26	19
Less than once a month	19	13	10	19	22	22
Not at all	21	23	9	14	20	38

The table below displays frequency of exposure to ETS in other indoor settings by non-smoking residents, by provincial region. Overall, this figure shows the pattern of exposure frequency is fairly similar from region to region. However, there are some noteworthy differences. For instance, everyday or nearly every day exposure by non-smokers is lowest in the Lower Mainland region (5%) and highest in the Northern region (11%). In addition, having no ETS exposure at all in other indoor settings is highest in the Lower Mainland (24%) and lowest in the Southern Interior and the Northern (16% and 13% respectively).

Frequency of Exposure to ETS in Other Indoor Settings among Non-Smokers by Region, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997					
	BC	Lower Mainland	Southern Interior	Island/Coast	North
	%	%	%	%	%
Every day	2	2	3	2	4
Almost every day	4	3	4	3	7
At least once a week	28	27	30	27	33
At least once a month	26	26	27	27	27
Less than once a month	19	19	19	21	16
Not at all	21	24	16	21	13

The 79% of the non-smoking residents of British Columbia who indicated some level of exposure to ETS in the other indoor settings, were also asked specifically about being exposure their exposure to ETS in the following settings: public or private transportation; homes of friends or relatives; entertainment or sporting events; restaurants, bars or nightclubs; stores or shopping centres; and any other indoor settings.

As displayed in the next table, a higher proportion of the non-smoking residents report exposure to ETS in settings such as other people's homes (51%) and restaurants, cafes, bars or nightclubs (86%), than they do for transportation (15%) and stores or shopping centres (16%). Moreover, this general pattern of findings is also evident in the survey data for each of the four regions of the province (see table).

There are, however, a few noteworthy differences between the regions for exposure to ETS in specific settings. For example, while 51% of all non-smokers in BC report ETS some exposure to ETS in the homes of relatives or friends, this percentage ranges from 46% in the Lower Mainland region to 64% in the Northern region. Additionally, some frequency of exposure to ETS in stores and shopping centres is reported by 11% of non-smokers in the Island/Coast region, but by 20% of non-smokers in the Northern region. Similarly, ETS exposure on public or private transportation is reported by 13% of non-smokers in the Lower Mainland and by 21% of non-smokers in the Northern (see table below for further details).

Exposure to ETS in Specific Indoor Settings among Non-Smokers by Region, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997					
	BC	Lower Mainland	Southern Interior	Island/ Coast	North
	%	%	%	%	%
In restaurants	86	84	86	88	89
In homes of relatives/friends	51	46	57	54	64
At entertainment or sports activities	36	33	41	39	42
On transportation	15	13	16	15	21
In stores/shopping centres	16	17	15	11	20
Other	8	8	7	8	7