

## **8. North West CHSS Report**

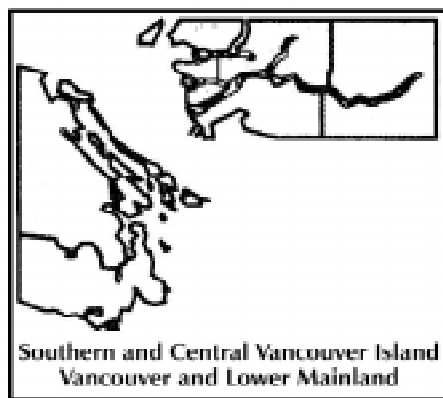
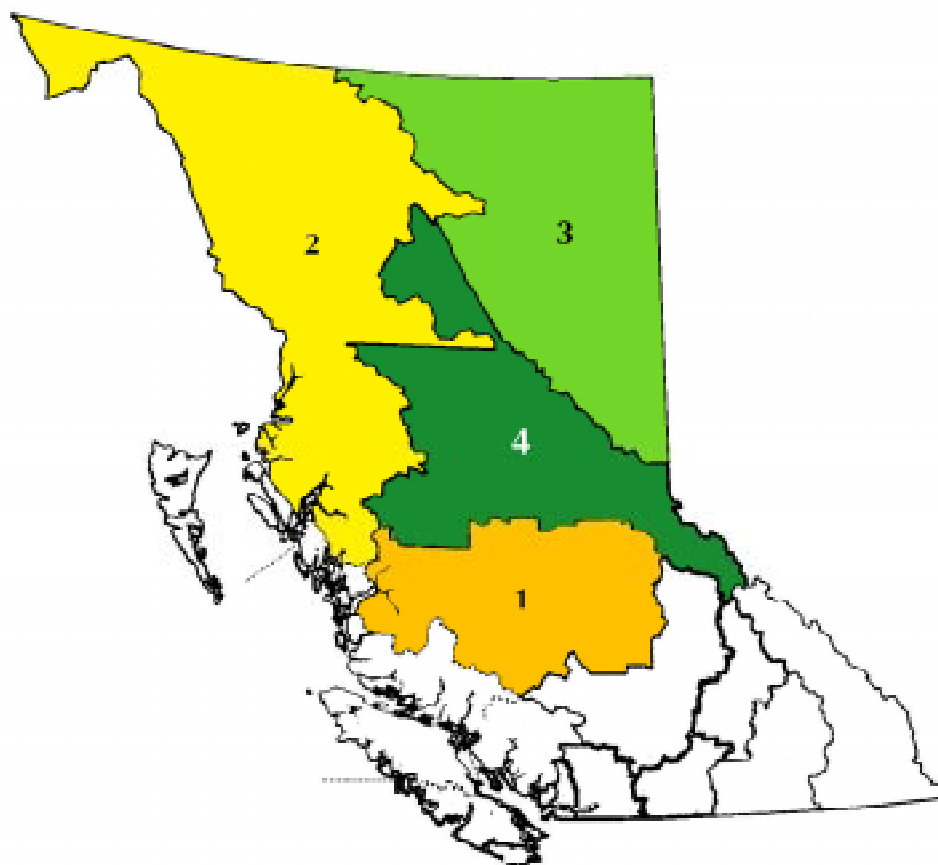
### **8.1 Introduction**

The results presented in this report are based on approximately 1,000 interviews with B.C. residents living within the North West Community Health Services Society. The margin of error for a sample size of 1,000 is  $\pm 3.1\%$  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 tobacco use, demographics of tobacco use, frequency of use, age of initiation, and exposure to environmental tobacco smoke.

Results for the North West have been compared with results for the province overall and a macro region called the North which includes Cariboo, North, North West, and Peace Liard.

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Southern and Central Vancouver Island  
Vancouver and Lower Mainland

- North Region:**  
1) Cariboo  
2) North West  
3) Peace Liard  
4) Northern Interior

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Boundary Source: BC STATS, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations

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## 8.2 Summary

**Tobacco Use** - Current cigarette smokers in the North West area make up 29% of residents while former smokers represent 24% and never smokers 48%. The vast majority of current smokers (83%) are daily smokers. The use of other forms of tobacco such as cigars, pipes and smokeless tobacco is very low at 1% or less. In looking at overall tobacco use, 29% of North West residents are current users, 24% are former users, 24% are lifetime abstainers and 22% are past experimenters or beginners. The average age of initiation for current and former cigarette smokers is similar (15.2 and 15.8). The average age of initiation is higher for ever users (current and former) of other forms of tobacco – cigars (22.2), pipes (24.5) and smokeless tobacco (17.6).

In the North West area certain socio-demographic characteristics are related to tobacco use – age, marital status, education, country of birth, ethnicity, labour force status and income adequacy. For example, residents more likely to be users are those who are separated or divorced, those with low income adequacy and those between the ages 19 to 24.

**ETS** - Almost two-thirds of non-smokers and 43% smokers report physical irritation to their eyes, breathing or throat due to ETS. Amongst non-smokers, 10% report every day or almost every day ETS exposure at home, 15% at work or school and 11% in other indoor settings. This results in 29% of North West non-smoking residents who are exposed to ETS every day or almost every day or the equivalent of 21% of all North West residents. In total, 50% of North West residents' health is being adversely affected by tobacco (29% through current tobacco use and 21% through ETS).

### **8.3 Tobacco Use Status of North West Residents**

Detailed information concerning past and present use of all forms of tobacco, by the residents of the North West (aged 12+), allows for a precise determination of their tobacco use status at the time of the survey. These survey findings concerning the use of cigarettes and alternate forms of tobacco (cigars, pipe tobacco and smokeless tobacco) are presented below.

#### **8.3.1 Cigarette Smoking Status**

For cigarette smoking, eight user groups are identified: current daily; current non-daily; former daily; former non-daily; former, but less than a year; lifetime abstainer; past experimenter; and beginner (See graph on next page).

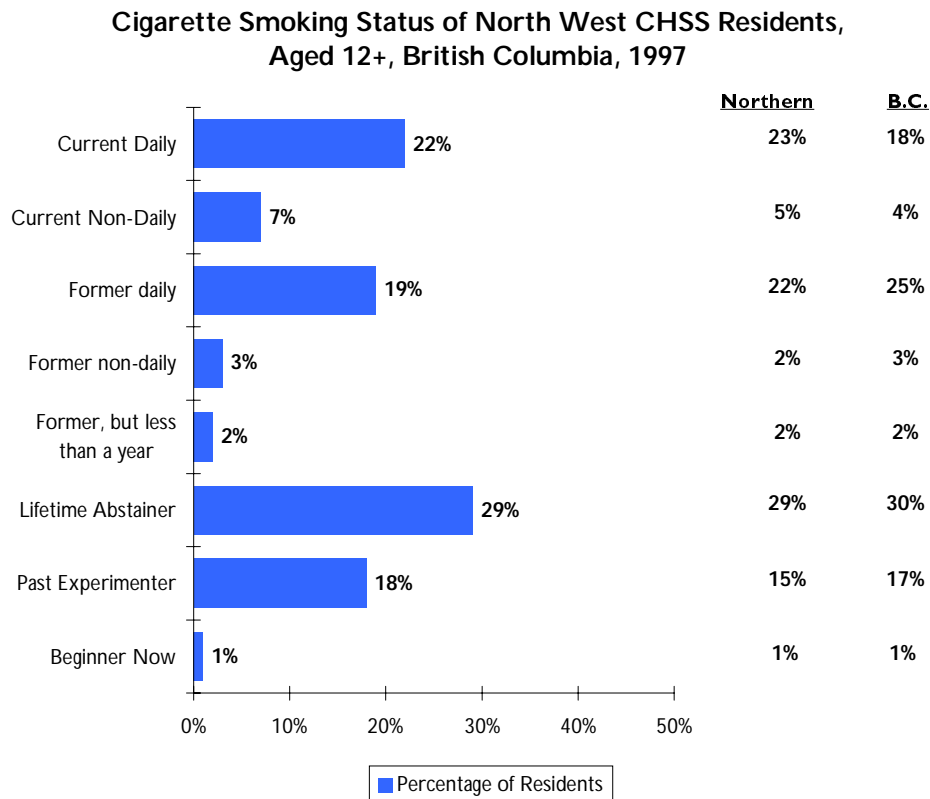
The current prevalence of cigarette smoking among all residents of the North West (aged 12+), is 29%. Daily users predominate among current cigarette smokers at 22%, while non-daily smokers represent 7% of all residents. As shown in the graph, this prevalence rate is fairly similar to that found in the North region (28%) but is higher than for the entire province (22%).

Former cigarette smokers comprise 24% of all North West residents. This percentage includes former daily smokers (19%), former non-daily smokers (3%), and former smokers, who quit less than a year ago (2%). These percentages are fairly similar to those found for the North region and the entire province.

By contrast, North West CHSS residents who have never smoked cigarettes represent 48% of the population aged 12+ years. These never users include lifetime abstainers (29%), past experimenters (18%), and beginners (1%). A comparison with these same

percentages for the North region and for the entire province suggests a nearly identical pattern.

In summary, current cigarette smokers make up 29% of residents in the North West area, while former smokers represent 24% and never smokers 48%. Overall, these proportions are fairly similar to those found for the North region and the province.



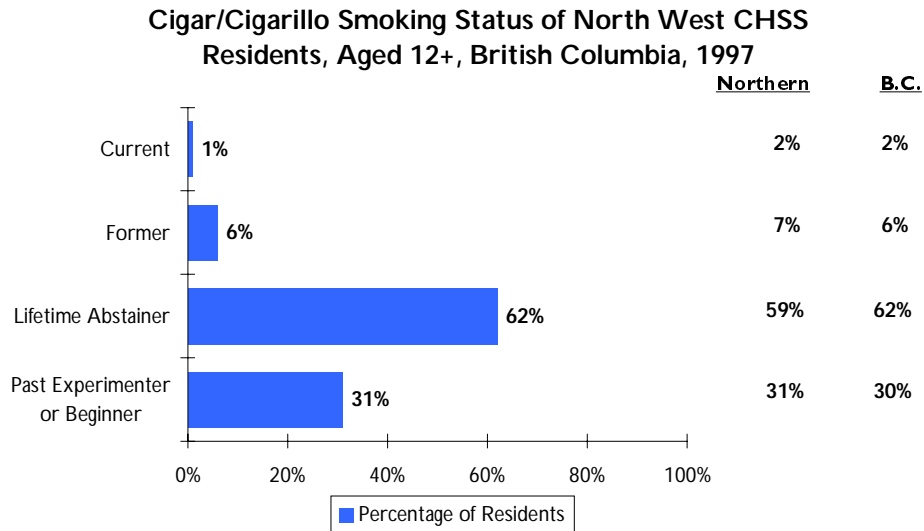
### **8.3.2 Alternate Tobacco Use Status**

#### **Cigar/Cigarillo Smoking Status**

For cigar smoking among residents of the North West, four user groups are identified by the survey: current (daily & non-daily), former, lifetime abstainer, and past experimenter or beginner (See graph).

The current prevalence of cigar smoking among North West residents is just 1%. Unlike cigarette smoking, there are insufficient numbers of cigar smokers to distinguish between daily and non-daily users. As shown in the graph, this low percentage for current users appears quite similar to that found for the North region and provincially, both at 2%.

The graph also shows that former cigar smokers in the North West area represent 6% of residents, while those who have never smoked cigars make up 93% of the residential population. This never user group includes lifetime abstainers (62%) and past experimenters or beginners (31%). These percentages are also in line with those found for the North region and for the whole province.



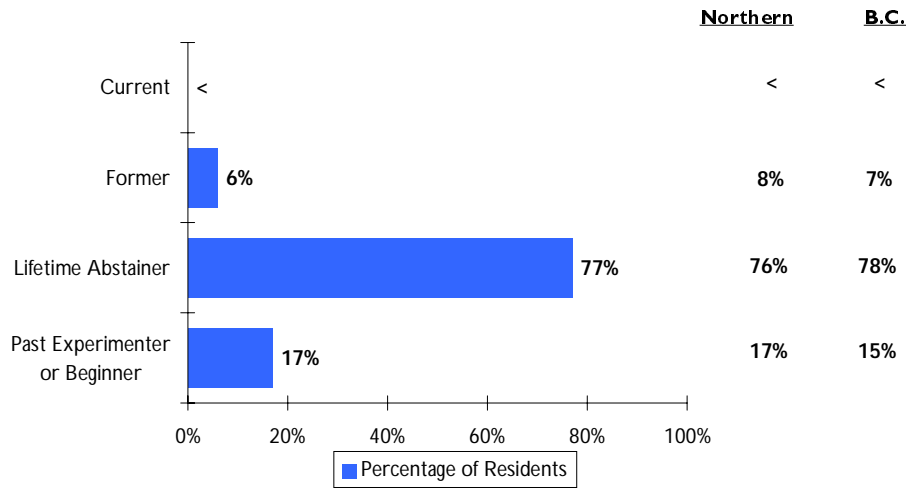
## Pipe Smoking Status

For the smoking of pipe tobacco among North West residents, the survey also identifies four user groups: current (daily & non-daily), former, lifetime abstainer, and past experimenter or beginner (See graph).

The current prevalence of pipe smoking among North West residents is less than 0.5%. Like cigar smoking, there are insufficient numbers of pipe smokers in the Cariboo to distinguish between daily and non-daily users. As exhibited in the graph, this extremely low prevalence rate is consistent with that found in the North region and provincially.

The graph also indicates that former pipe smokers in the North West represent 6% of all residents, while those who have never smoked pipe tobacco make up fully 94% of the residential population. This never user group includes lifetime abstainers (77%) and a smaller group of past experimenters or beginners (17%). These percentages are also in keeping with those found for the North region and for the whole province.

**Pipe Smoking Status of North West CHSS Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997**

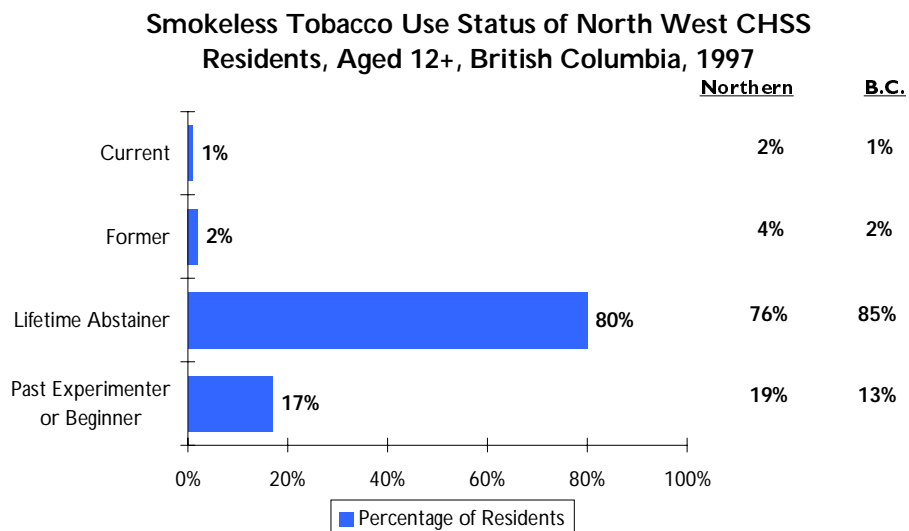


## **Smokeless Tobacco Use Status**

Smokeless tobacco use (i.e., snuff, pinch and chewing tobacco) among North West residents was treated similarly by the survey and four user groups are identified: current (daily & non-daily), former, lifetime abstainer, and past experimenter or beginner.

The current prevalence of smokeless tobacco use among the residents of the North West is just 1%. There are also insufficient numbers of smokeless users to distinguish between daily and non-daily use. As shown in the graph, this very low prevalence of smokeless tobacco use is also apparent in both the North region and the entire province. (See graph).

Former users of smokeless tobacco products represent only 2% of all North West residents, while residents who have never used smokeless tobacco represent fully 97% of the population aged 12+ years. As shown in the graph, this never user group includes lifetime abstainers (80%) and past experimenters or beginners (17%). This percentage for past experimenters/beginners in the North West is slightly higher than the survey findings for the province as a whole (13%), but is more consistent with results for the North region (19%).

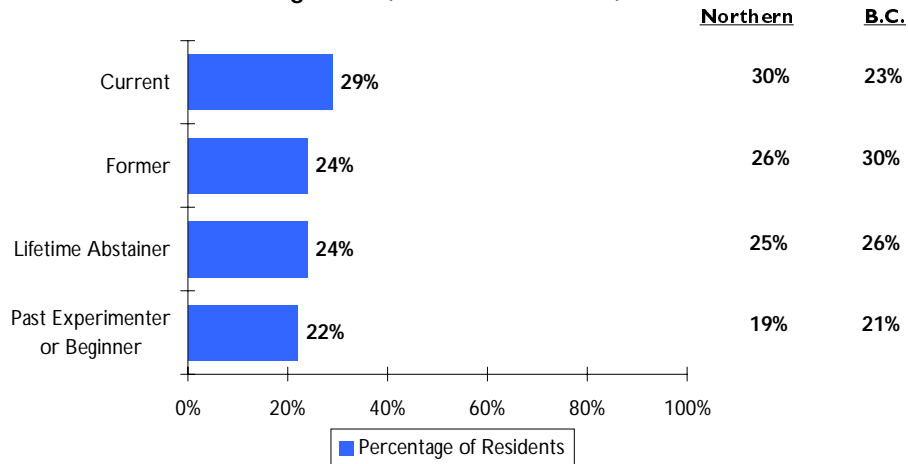


### 8.3.3 Overall Tobacco Use Status

The current prevalence of any form of tobacco use among North West residents aged 12+ years is summarized in the graph below. This graph combines some of the information contained in the previous four graphs, to provide a present snapshot of the overall use of tobacco in the North West.

Non-use is presently the norm among residents of the North West, with nearly 71% of the aged 12+ population indicating they do not currently use any form of tobacco. On the other hand, the survey does show that 29% of residents are currently using at least one form of tobacco. Former tobacco users represent 24% of the North West population, while never users include past experimenters or beginners at 22% and lifetime abstainers at 24%. As shown in the graph, these findings are fairly similar to that found elsewhere in province, with the exception of the prevalence rate for current users which is about the same as the regional rate of 30% but is higher than the provincial rate of 23%.

**Overall Tobacco Use Status of North West CHSS Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997**



## 8.4 Social Demographics of Tobacco Use

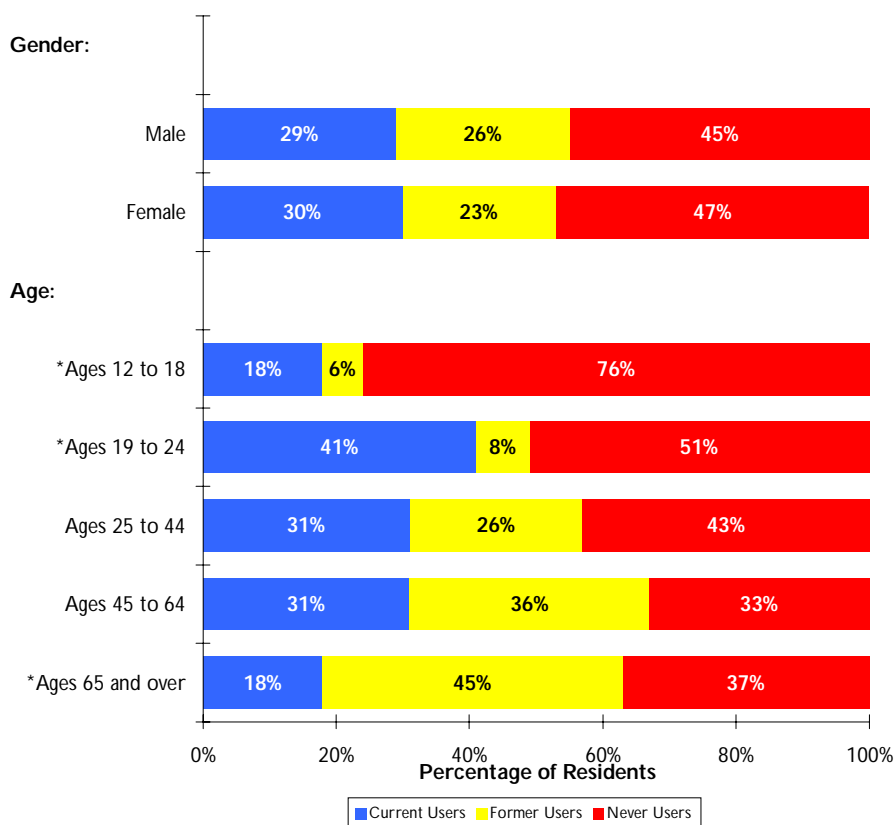
In this section, use of any form of tobacco (i.e., current, former vs. never) has been cross tabulated against a range of social demographic characteristics of residents, in order to demonstrate a number of social and economic variations in tobacco usage. As already outlined in *Overall Tobacco Use Status*, 29% of all North West residents are current tobacco users, 24% are former users, and 46% are never users.

### 8.4.1 Gender and Age

The following graph highlights differences in tobacco use as a function of gender and age. While there are some very modest differences between male and female residents, age related differences are more apparent. Female residents are just as likely as male residents to be current tobacco users (30% vs. 29%), while males are slightly more likely to be former tobacco users (26% vs. 23%). Female residents are also just as likely as male residents to have never been a tobacco user (47% vs. 46%).

In terms of age, current tobacco use is highest among 19 to 24 year olds (41%) and lowest among 12 to 18 year olds (18%) and those aged 65 and over (18%). Being a former user of tobacco rises steadily with age, from 6% among 12 to 18 year olds to 45% among residents aged 65 and over. On the other hand, the proportion of residents who have never used tobacco declines dramatically from 76% of 12 to 18 years olds to 51% of those aged 19 to 24 years. This percentage continues to decline gradually across the 25 to 44, 45 to 64 and 65+ age groupings.

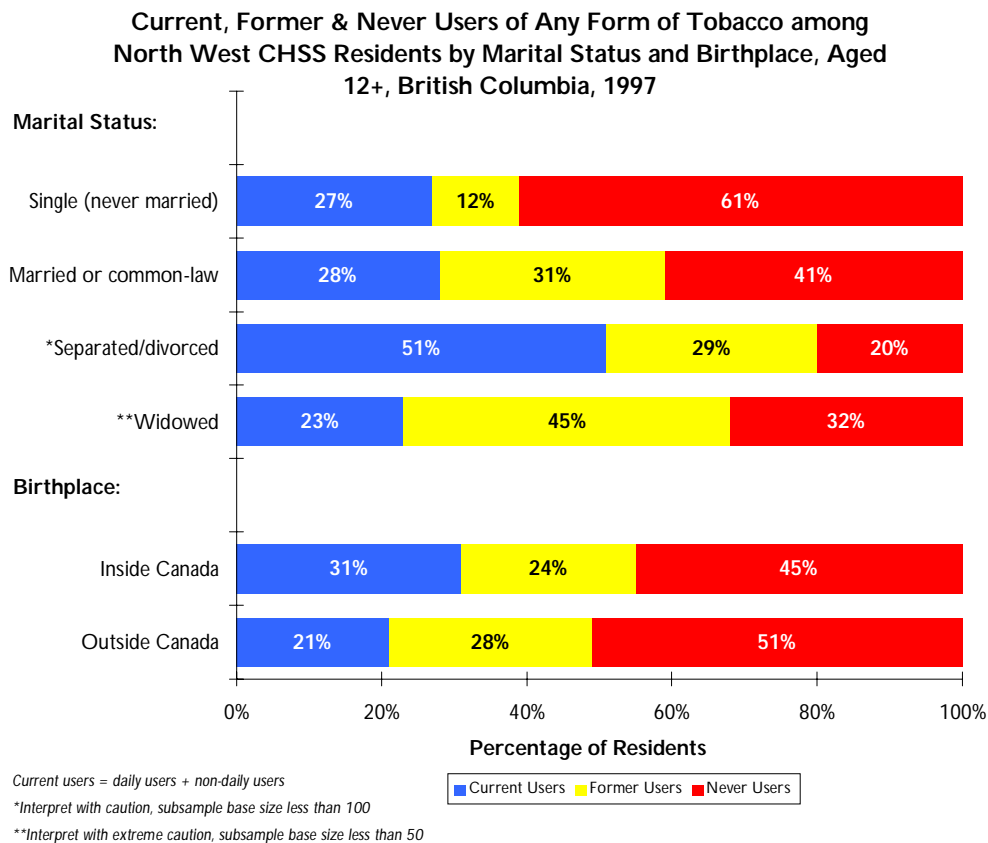
**Current, Former & Never Users of Any Form of Tobacco among North West CHSS Residents by Gender and Age, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997**



Current users = daily users + non-daily users  
 \*Interpret with caution, subsample base size less than 100

### 8.4.2 Birthplace and Marital Status

The graph below displays the relationship between tobacco use and place of birth, as well as marital status. Whether residents of the North West are born inside or outside of Canada is associated with whether or not they are current smokers, as 31% of residents born in Canada are current smokers versus 21% of residents born outside Canada. Differences in rates of tobacco use are also clearly evident, in the graph, as a function of marital status. For instance, the proportion of current users is highest among residents who are separated or divorced (51%), while the proportion of former users is highest among those who are widowed (45%). Finally, those residents who have never married (i.e., single) are most likely (61%) to have never been users of tobacco.

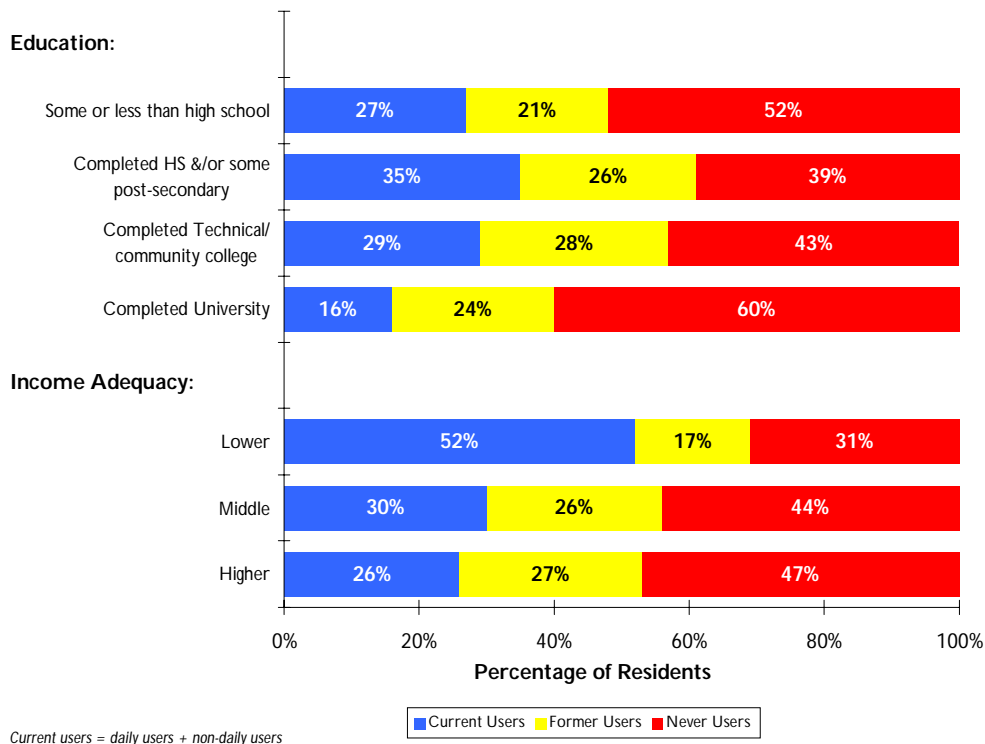


### 8.4.3 Income Adequacy and Education

The graph below shows the relationship between tobacco use and income adequacy for the household, as well as the educational achievements of residents. A considerably higher proportion of current users is evident among residents with low income adequacy (52%), and conversely the lowest proportion of current users is found for residents who are university graduates (16%).

Furthermore, the proportion of residents who have never used any form of tobacco is substantially higher among university graduates (60%), than among technical/ community college graduates (43%) and high school graduates (39%).

**Current, Former & Never Users of Any Form of Tobacco among North West CHSS Residents by Education & Income Adequacy, British Columbia, 1997**

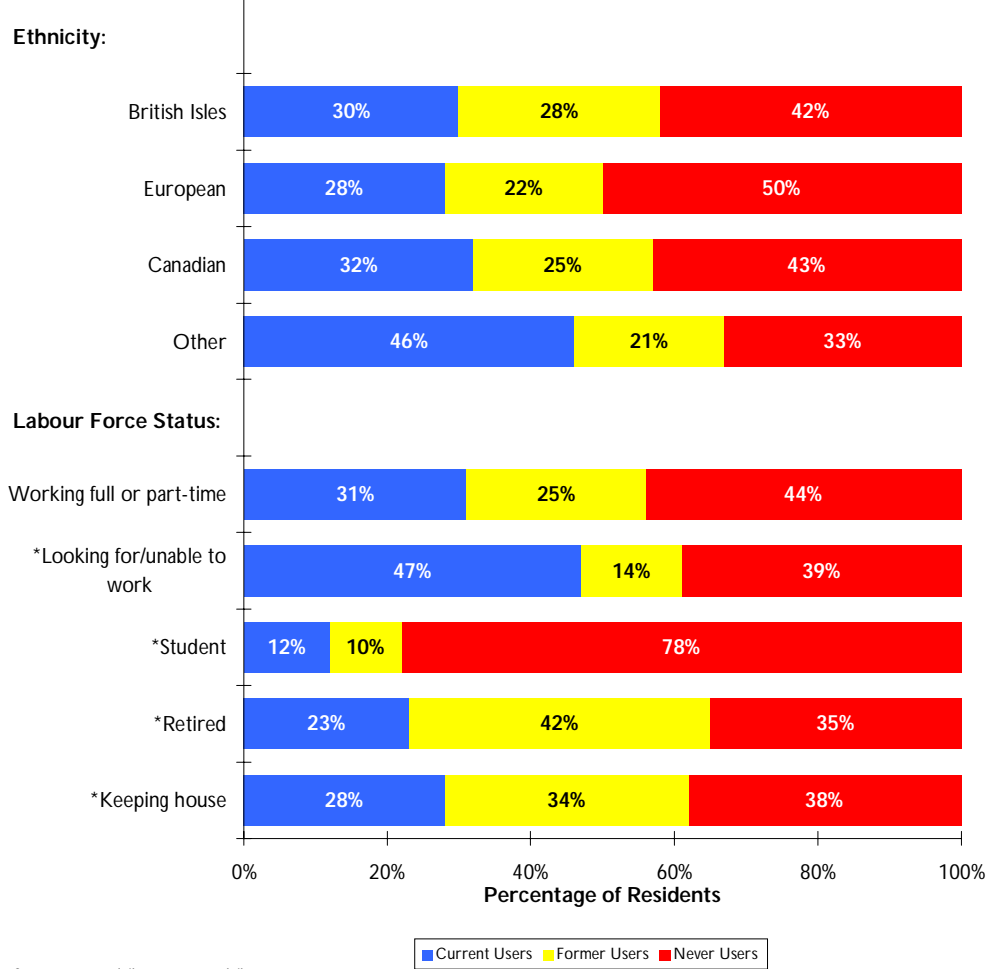


#### **8.4.4 Ethnicity and Labour Force Status**

The graph below exhibits the relationship between tobacco use and residents' ethnic/cultural background, as well as the labour force status of residents at the time of the survey. Some variation in tobacco use according to ethnic/cultural grouping is apparent, with residents who identified themselves with some 'other' ethnic groups being most likely to be current users (46%). However given the small sample numbers for some of the ethnic groupings, these survey findings seem less certain.

Variations in tobacco use according to labour force status are more apparent from the graph. For example, among North West residents who are either looking for work or who are unable to work the proportion of current users is 47%. By contrast, the proportion of current users among those working full or part-time is just 31%. Current use of any form of tobacco by students and retired residents is fairly low (12% and 23% respectively), but these proportions are largely attributable to the age of these residents, rather than their labour force status.

**Current, Former & Never Users of Any Form of Tobacco among North West CHSS Residents by Ethnic Background & Labour Force Status, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997**



Current users = daily users + non-daily users  
 \*Interpret with caution, subsample base size less than 100

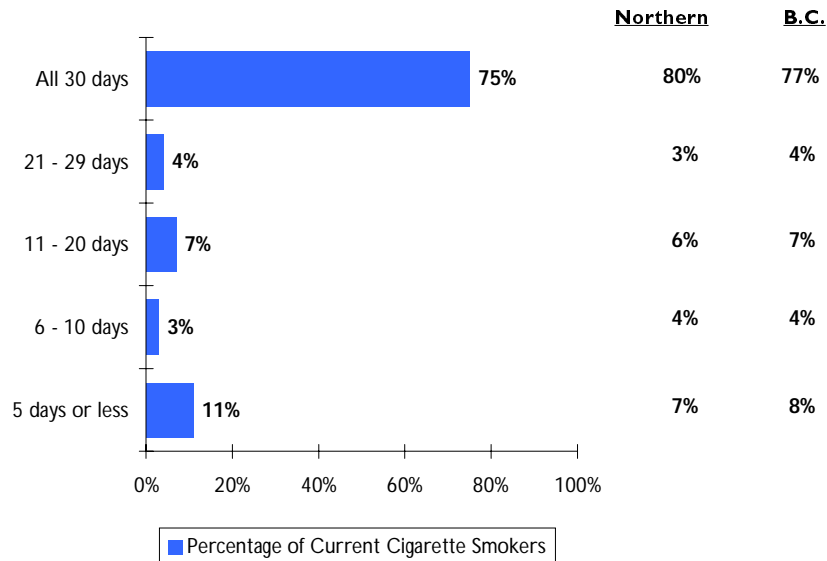
## **8.5 Frequency of Cigarette Smoking among Current Users**

In addition to identifying current cigarette smokers, 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 prior to conducting the survey.

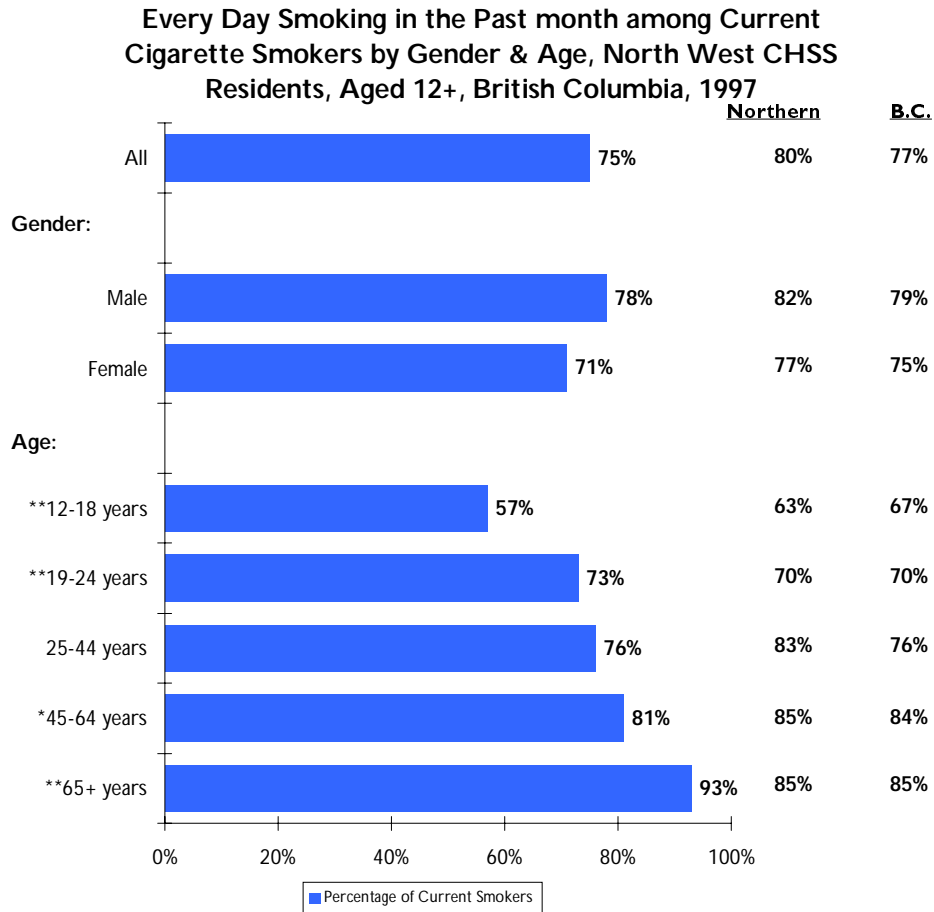
### **8.5.1 Days Smoked in Past Month**

The number of days in the past month in which current cigarette smokers in the North West had at least one cigarette is displayed in the graph following. Very infrequent smoking, such as on 5 or fewer days per month is reported by only 11% of smokers, while smoking on all 30 days during the past month was reported by fully 75% of current cigarette smokers. This rate for every day smoking is about the same as that found across the province (77%), but slightly lower than in the North region (80%). There is also a slightly higher percentage of North West residents who smoke 5 or less days per month (11%) when compared to the entire North region and the province (7% and 8% respectively).

**Days Smoked in the Past month among Current Cigarette Smokers, North West CHSS Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997**



As shown in the following graph, males are generally more likely to report smoking on all 30 days in the past month (i.e., are daily smokers) than are females (78% vs. 71%). Similarly, smoking on all 30 days during the past month is lowest among 12 to 18 year old cigarette smokers (57%) and then rises with each age grouping to a high of 93% for ages 65+. These differences in percentages by gender and age group are generally consistent with those reported by cigarette smokers in the North region and in the province.

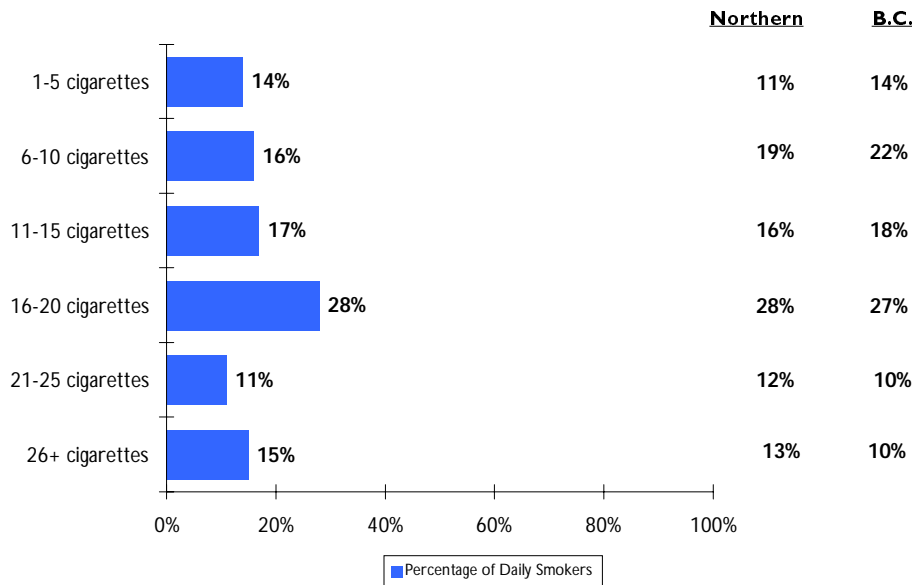


Current cigarette smokers = daily smokers + non daily smokers  
 \*Interpret with caution, subsample base size less than 100  
 \*\*Interpret with extreme caution, subsample base size less than 50

### 8.5.2 Cigarettes per Day by Daily Smokers

Among daily cigarette smokers in the North West only 14% report averaging 5 or fewer cigarettes per day, but as can be seen in the graph below, 26% report averaging more than 20 cigarettes per day. The average number cigarettes smoked per day by daily cigarette smokers in the North West area is 17.8. This average number is nearly identical to the averages for daily cigarette smokers in the North region (17.9 per day), although slightly higher than for the entire province (16.6 per day).

**Average Number of Cigarettes per Day among Daily Cigarette Smokers, North West CHSS Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997**



Averages: CHSS=17.8; Region = 17.9; B.C. = 16.6

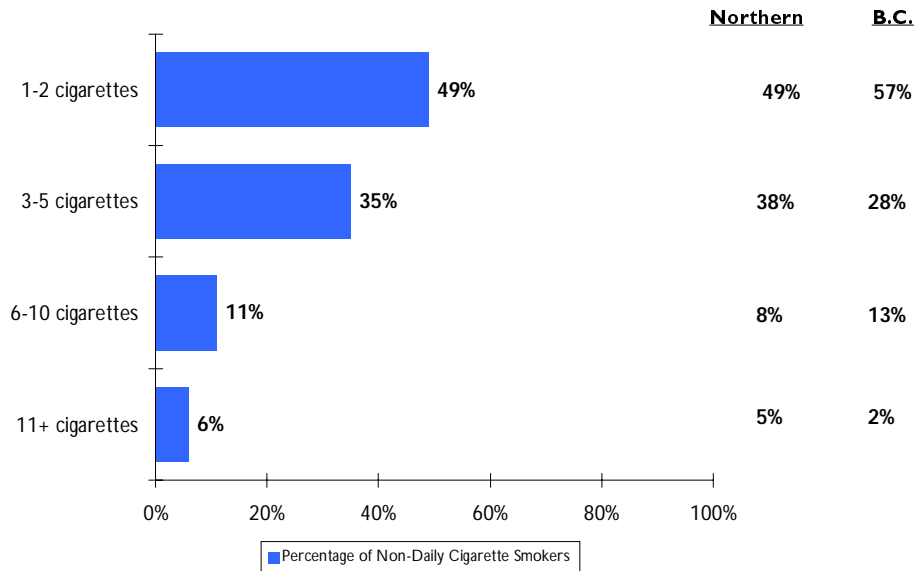
As shown in the table below, on average males smoke more per day than females (20.5 vs. 14.9). Additionally, the average number of cigarettes per day is highest in the 45 to 64 year age grouping (22.9), and lowest in the 12 to 18 age group (8.3). These gender and age differences are similar to those for the North region, and the province although male cigarette smokers in the North West report averaging more cigarettes per day in comparison to their counterparts in the province as a whole (18.2).

Average Number of Cigarettes per Day Among Daily Cigarette Smokers by Gender & Age, North West CHSS Residents Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997			
	North West CHSS	North Region	B.C.
All	17.8	17.9	16.6
<b>Gender:</b>			
Male	20.5	19.3	18.2
Female	14.9	16.0	15.0
<b>Age:</b>			
**12-18 years	8.3	11.4	10.5
**19-24 years	12.6	14.2	13.3
25-44 years	17.6	18.8	16.8
*45-64 years	22.9	20.0	19.2
**65+ years	19.1	17.9	17.1
<small>*Interpret with caution, subsample base size less than 100</small>			
<small>**Interpret with extreme caution, subsample base size less than 50</small>			

### 8.5.3 Cigarettes per Day by Non-Daily Smokers

The number of cigarettes smoked per day by non-daily cigarette smokers in the North West (i.e., those who report either occasional smoking or had smoked on 1 to 29 days in the past month) are displayed in the graph below. By contrast, fully 49% of these smokers report having only 1 to 2 per day, 35% report having 3 to 5 per day, and just 6% report having 11 or more cigarettes per day on the days that they smoke. The average number of cigarettes per day for this non-daily group is 4.6. These percentages are fairly consistent with those of other non-daily cigarette smokers in the North region and the province (see graph). However, the average number of cigarettes per day by non-daily smokers in the North West area is slightly higher than for the North region and the province (4.6 vs. 3.8 in the region and 3.5 in B.C.).

**Average Number of Cigarettes per Day on Smoking Days among Non-Daily Cigarette Smokers†, North West CHSS Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997**



Averages: CHSS=4.6; Region=3.8; B.C.=3.5

†Interpret with extreme caution, total base size 50

## 8.6 Age of Initiation for Tobacco Use

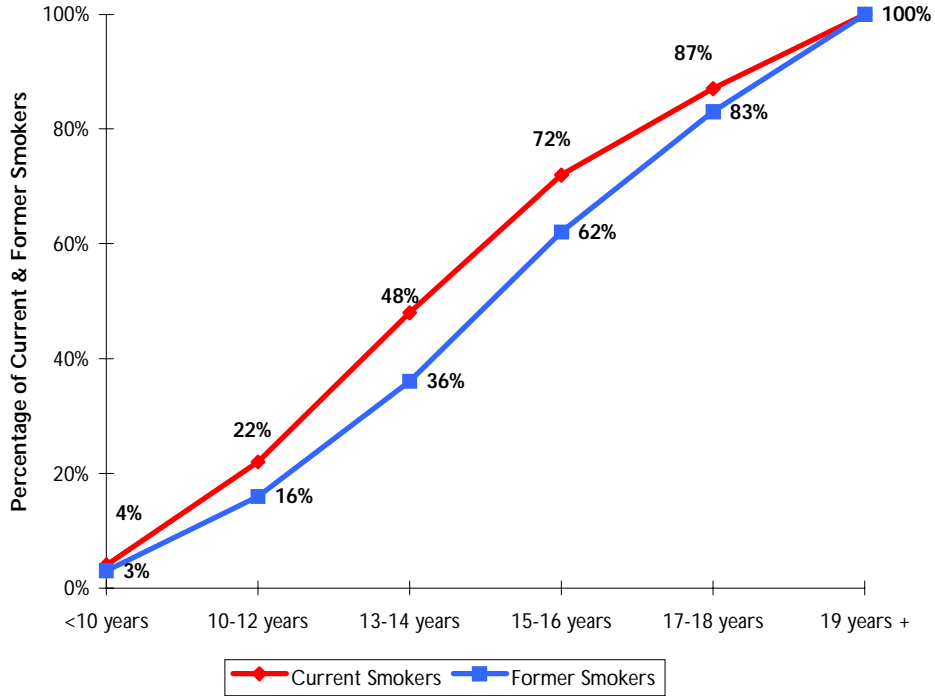
Both former and current users of tobacco identified by the survey were asked their age when they first started using various tobacco products. In the case of cigarettes, they were asked either their age when they smoked their first whole cigarette (if aged 12 to 19 years), or alternatively, their age when they first started smoking cigarettes (if aged 20 years and older). For cigar, pipe and smokeless tobacco users, they were simply asked their age when they first started using the product.

### 8.6.1 Age of Initiation for Cigarette Smoking

The cumulative age of initiation for cigarette smoking among residents of the North West is displayed in the graph for both current cigarette smokers and former cigarette smokers. Among **current** cigarette smokers, 22% began smoking before the age of 13, 48% began smoking before age 15 and 87% began smoking before age 19. The average age of initiation for those North West residents who currently smoke cigarettes is 15.2 years. This pattern of responses is similar among **former** cigarette smokers, with 16% indicating they began smoking before the age of 13, 36% began before age 15 and 83% began before age 19. The average age of initiation among former cigarette smokers is 15.8 years.

**Cumulative Distribution for Age of Initiation among Current & Former Cigarette Smokers, North West CHSS Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997**

- Age when smoked first cigarette or started smoking cigarettes -

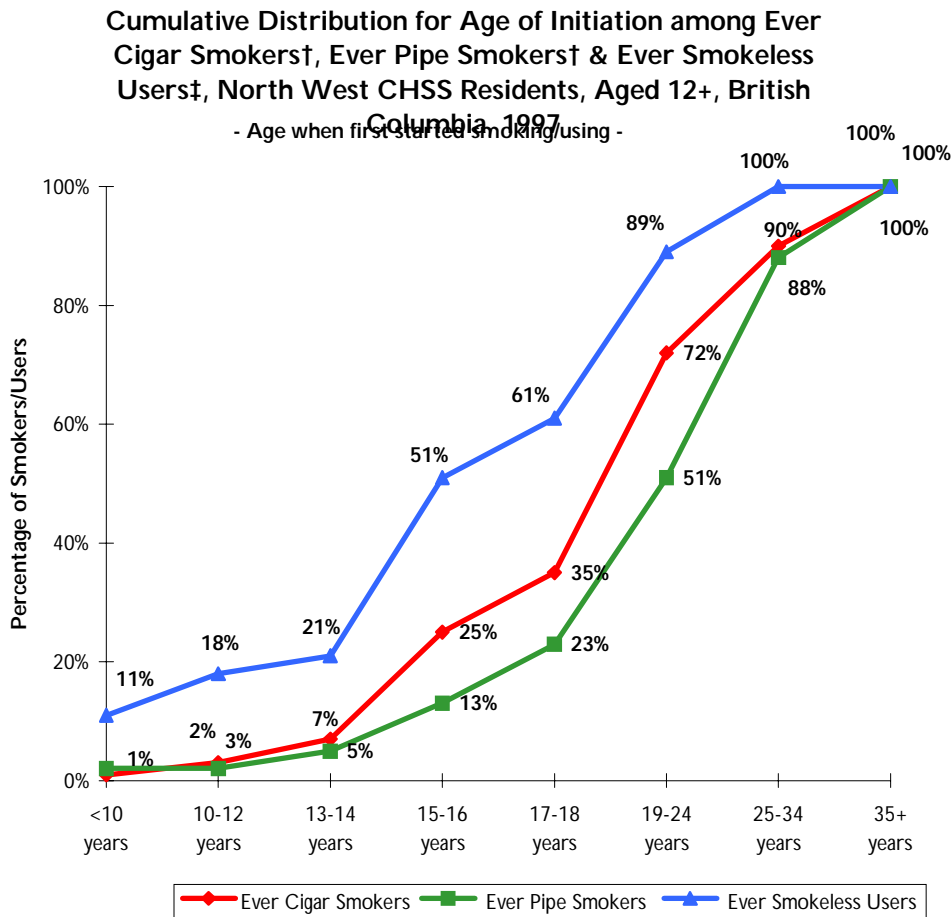


As shown in the table below, these average ages for the onset of cigarette smoking are nearly identical to those observed in the North region and very close to those for the entire province.

Average Age of Initiation among Current & Former Cigarette Smokers, North West CHSS Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997			
	North West CHSS	North Region	B.C.
	Years	Years	Years
Current	15.2	15.2	15.7
Former	15.8	15.9	16.4

### 8.6.2 Age of Initiation for Cigars, Pipes & Smokeless Tobacco

Due to the low prevalence of cigar and pipe smoking, as well as smokeless tobacco use, it is not possible to examine the age of initiation for current versus former users separately. Therefore, the cumulative age of initiation for residents of the North West who have ever used (current + former) cigars, pipes and smokeless tobacco are displayed the graph below.



Ever = Current & Former

†Interpret with caution, total base size less than 100

‡Interpret with extreme caution, total base size less than 50

Among those North West residents who have ever smoked cigars, just 2% began smoking cigars before age 13, 35% began before age 19, 72% began before age 25, and 90% began before age 35. Compared to cigarette smoking, the average age of onset for

cigar smoking is somewhat older at 22.2 years. This average is similar to the averages found for cigar smokers in the North region (20.6 years) and the province (22.8 years).

For North West residents who have ever smoked pipe tobacco, just 2% began smoking a pipe before age 13, 23% began before age 19, 51% began before age 25, and 88% began before age 35. The average age of onset for pipe smoking is even older than that for cigars at 24.5 years. Yet, this is very close to the average ages found in the North region (24.3 years) and the province (24.6 years).

Among those residents of the North West who have ever used smokeless tobacco, 18% began before age 13, 61% began before age 19, 89% began before age 25, and 100% began before age 35. The average age of onset for smokeless tobacco use is lower than that of pipes and cigars, at 17.6 years. This average age for the onset of smokeless tobacco use is also lower than the averages for smokeless users in the North region (20.7 years) and for the entire province (21.8 years). It is important to note, however that these findings for the North West CHSS are based on a very small sample size, resulting in a larger margin of error.

Average Age of Initiation among Ever Cigar Smokers†, Ever Pipe Smokers† & Ever Smokeless Users‡, North West CHSS Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997			
	North West CHSS	North Region	B.C.
	Years	Years	Years
Ever Cigar Smoker	22.2	20.6	22.8
Ever Pipe Smoker	24.5	24.3	24.6
Ever Smokeless User	17.6	20.7	21.8

†Interpret with caution, total base size less than 100  
‡Interpret with extreme caution, total base size less than 50

## **8.7 Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) among Non-Smokers**

In addition to inquiring directly about tobacco use, the survey also asked residents of the North West about their exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS, sometimes known as 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.

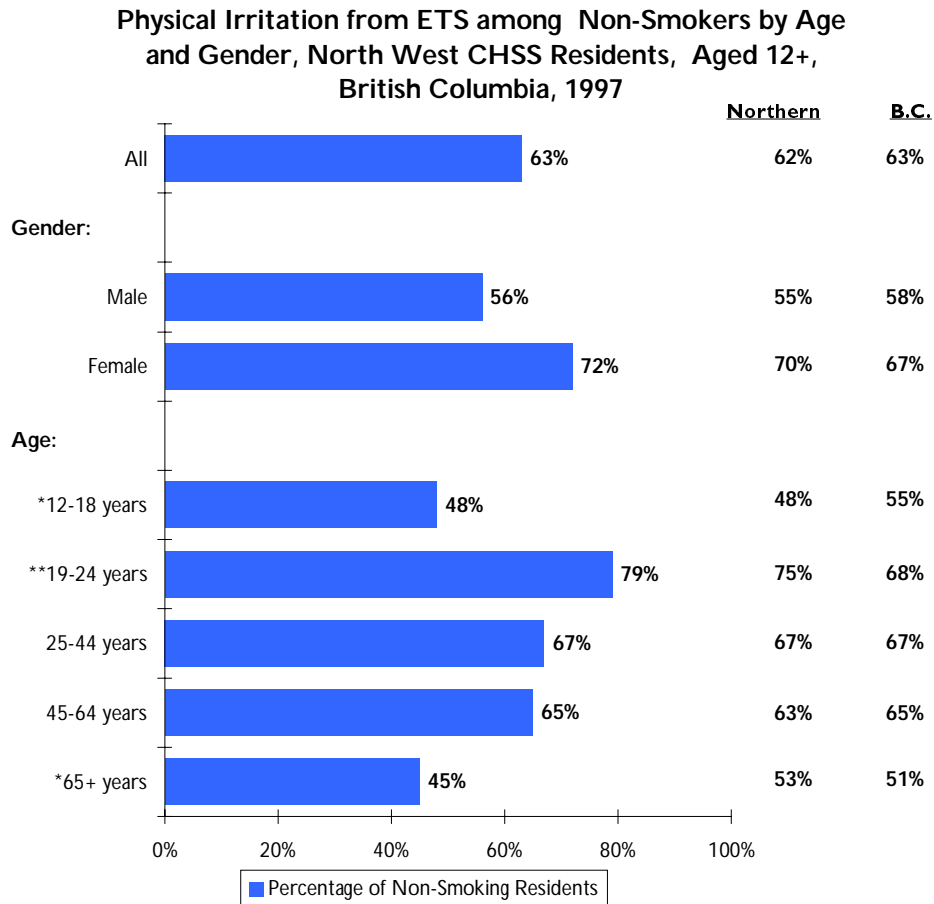
### **8.7.1 Irritation From Exposure to ETS**

The survey asked all residents, if “tobacco smoke usually causes physical irritation to your eyes, your breathing or your throat” Yes responses to this question for non-smokers are outlined the graph below. Almost two-thirds (63%) of non-smokers (i.e., those North West residents who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or a pipe) report they are usually physically irritated by ETS. Interestingly, even 43% of current smokers report physical irritation from tobacco smoke.

Some gender differences in the proportion of non-smokers are evident with 56% of males versus 72% of females indicating they are usually irritated by ETS. Age related differences are also evident with 79% of non-smokers aged 19 to 24 being irritated by ETS, yet this proportion declines steadily with age to just 45% among non-smokers aged 65 and over. As displayed in the graph, this general pattern of findings by gender and age is also reflected in the survey data for the North region and the province. Education plays a role as well, as residents with less than a high school education are less likely to be irritated (54%) than those who have completed high school (64%) or university

(71%). Labour force differences are also evident with students and retired residents indicating they are less likely than other residents to be irritated by ETS.

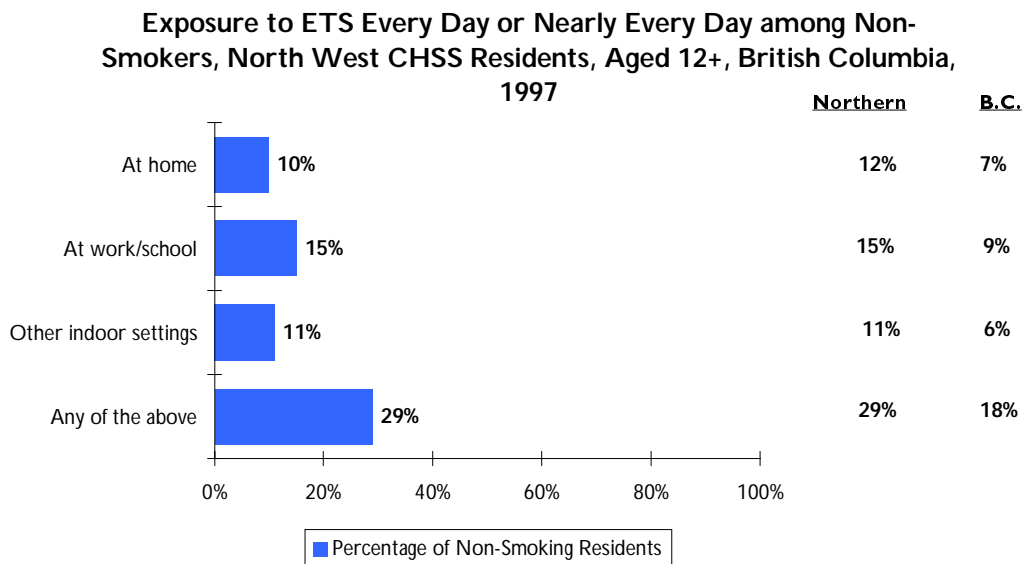
By contrast, there are no substantial differences in the proportion of non-smoking residents who are irritated by ETS as a function of country of birth, marital status, income adequacy, and ethnicity.



Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.  
 \*Interpret with caution, subsample base size less than 100  
 \*\*Interpret with extreme caution, subsample base size less than 50

### 8.7.2 Overall Exposure to ETS

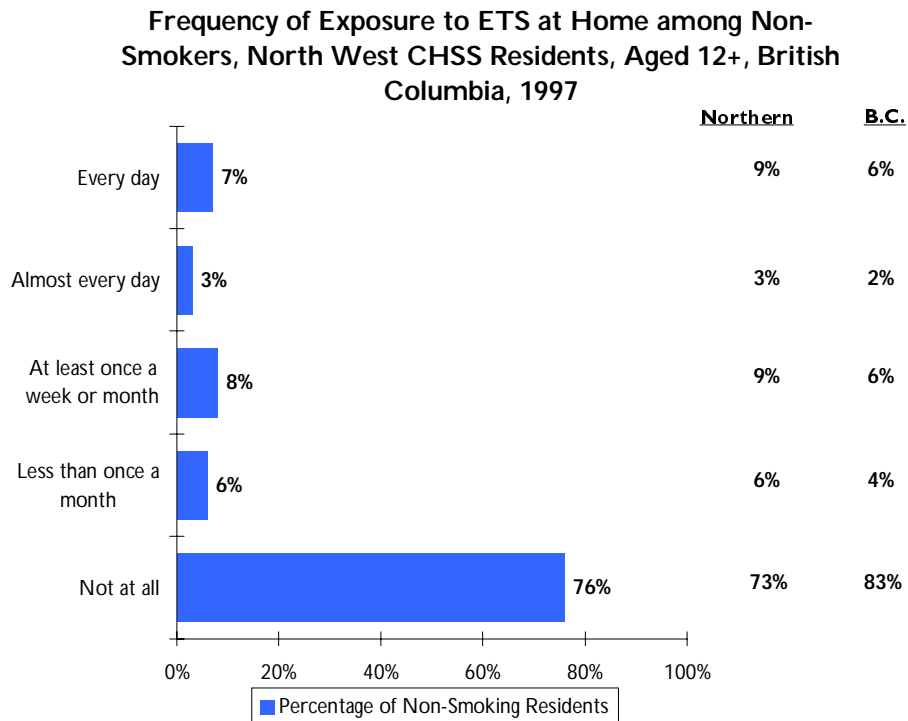
The graph below combines some of the survey findings concerning exposure to ETS for non-smoking residents of the North West. Specifically, it displays the proportion of non-smoking residents who have daily or nearly daily exposure to ETS at home, at work or school, and in other public settings, separately. More importantly, however, this graph shows that 29% of non-smoking residents are exposed to ETS daily or nearly daily in at least one of these three different types of settings. This proportion is the same as that observed for the North region (29%), but is much higher than for the province as a whole (18%). Furthermore, it seems especially noteworthy that the 29% of non-smoking residents, who are exposed to ETS daily or nearly daily, translates into 21% of all North West residents.



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

### 8.7.3 Exposure to ETS at Home

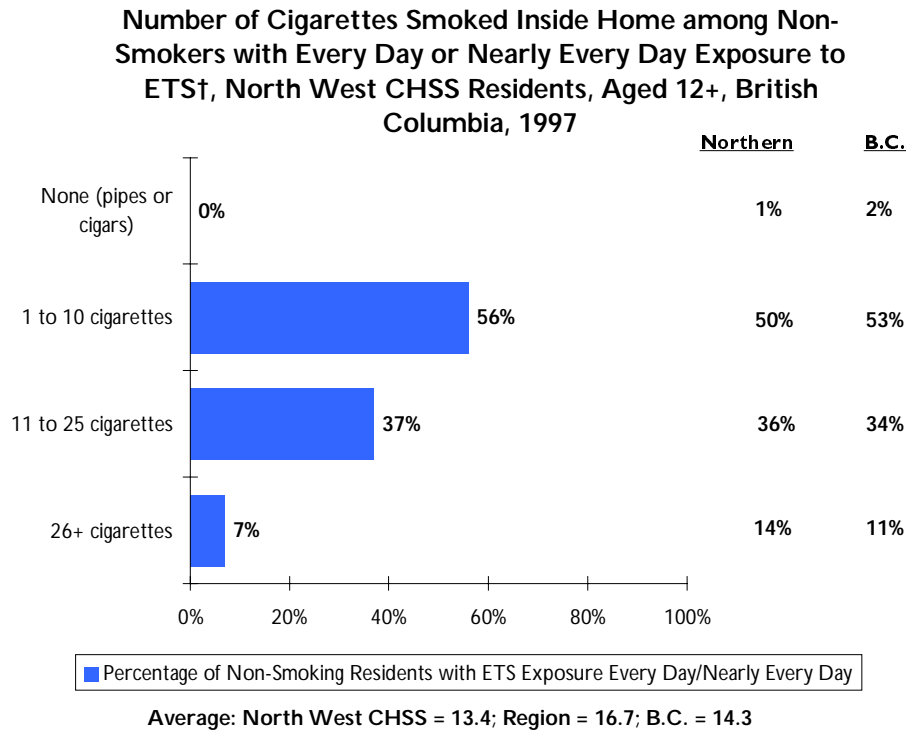
Non-Smokers: For non-smoking residents, response options for frequency of exposure to ETS inside your own home included: every day, nearly every day, at least once a week, at least once a month, less than once a month, and not at all. As shown in the graph to follow, 10% of non-smokers in the North West report being exposed to ETS inside their home on a daily or nearly daily basis. On the other hand, 76% report no exposure to ETS at all in their homes. Non-smokers in the North West have slightly higher ETS exposure levels at home than their counterparts in the whole province, but are more similar to those in the North region.



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

North West residents 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-six percent of these residents indicated they are exposed to smoke from 1 to 10 cigarettes per day and 37% reported they are exposed to smoke from 11

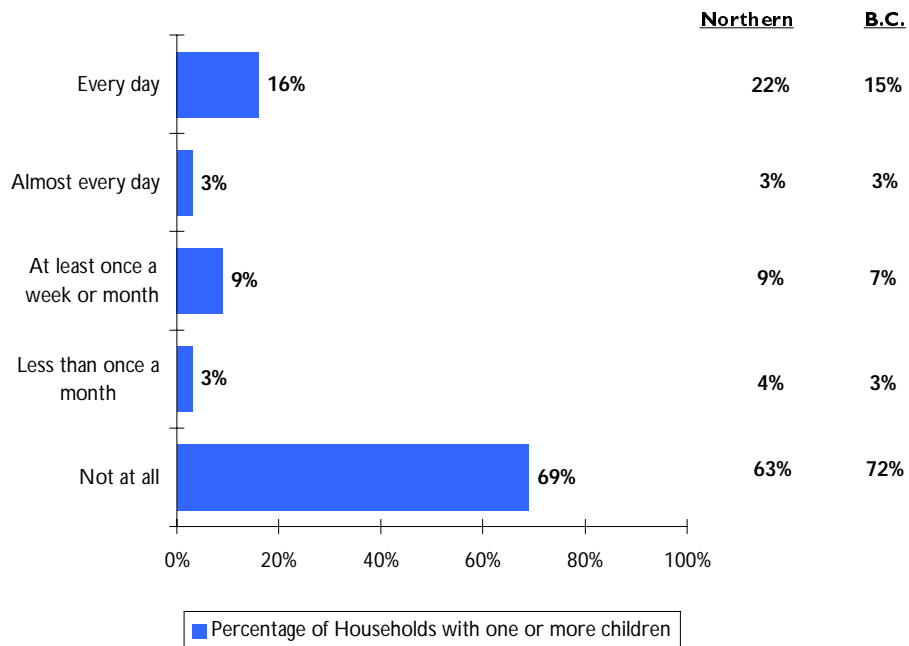
to 25 cigarettes per day. The average number of cigarettes smoked inside these homes on a typical day is 13.4, and as shown in the graph to follow, this average is slightly lower than for other non-smokers in the North region (16.7) and the province (14.3).



†Interpret with caution, total base size less than 100

Households with Children: ETS exposure in North West households with children age 11 and under are highlighted in the graph below. In 19% of these households there is daily or nearly daily exposure to ETS, and in 69% there is no ETS exposure at all. These percentages are quite similar to what is found for households with children in the whole province (18% - daily/nearly daily, 72% - not at all), and are slightly more positive than for such households in the North region (25% - daily/nearly daily, 63% - not at all).

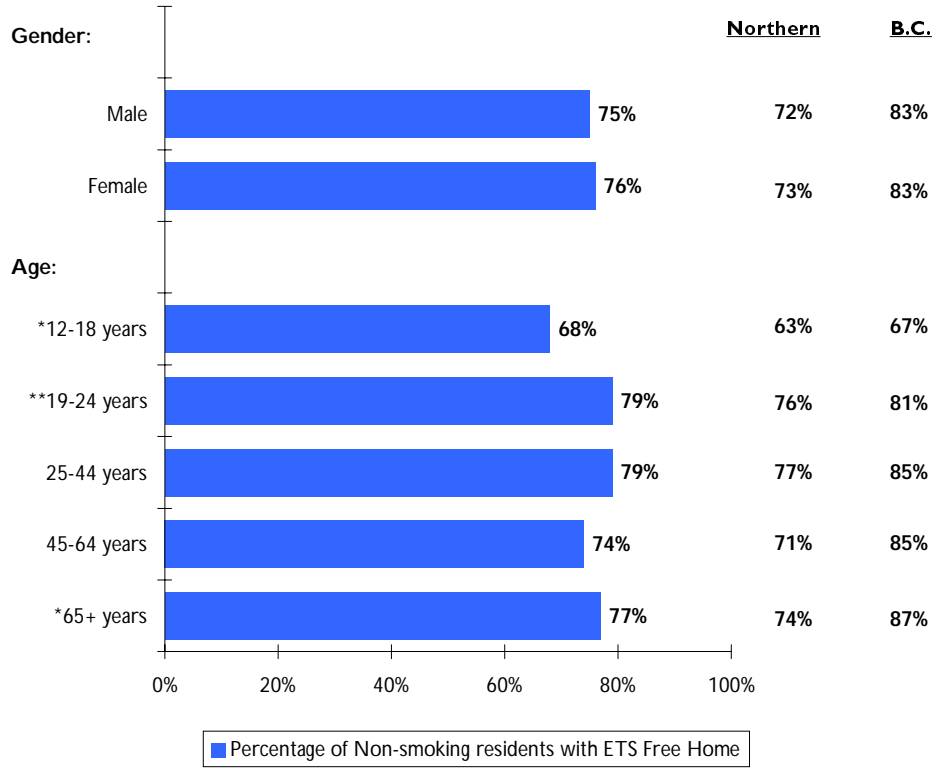
**Frequency of Exposure to ETS in Homes with Children Aged  
11 Years and Under, North West CHSS Residents, Aged 12+,  
British Columbia, 1997**



For those households with children aged 11 and under, and which have daily or nearly daily exposure to ETS, the average number of cigarettes smoked inside the home on a typical day is 17.8. This average is slightly lower than for the North region (19.3) and the province (18.2).

ETS Free Households: Non-smoking residents of the North West who live in households with no ETS exposure at all are about equally likely to be male or female (75% vs. 76%), but as shown in the graph, this probability tends to vary more with the age of the resident. For instance, just 68% of 12 to 18 year old non-smoking residents live in households with no ETS exposure at all, but this same percentage is 79% among non-smokers aged 25 to 44 years and 77% among non-smokers 65 years and over.

**Non-Smokers with ETS Free Households by Gender & Age,  
North West CHSS Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia,  
1997**



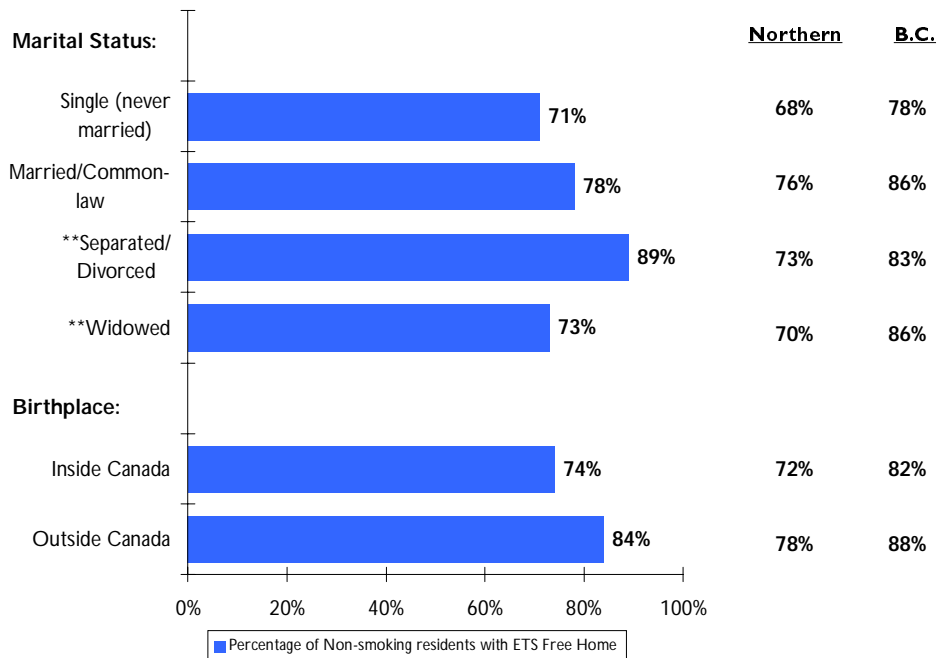
Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.

\*Interpret with caution, subsample base size less than 100

\*\*Interpret with extreme caution, subsample base size less than 50

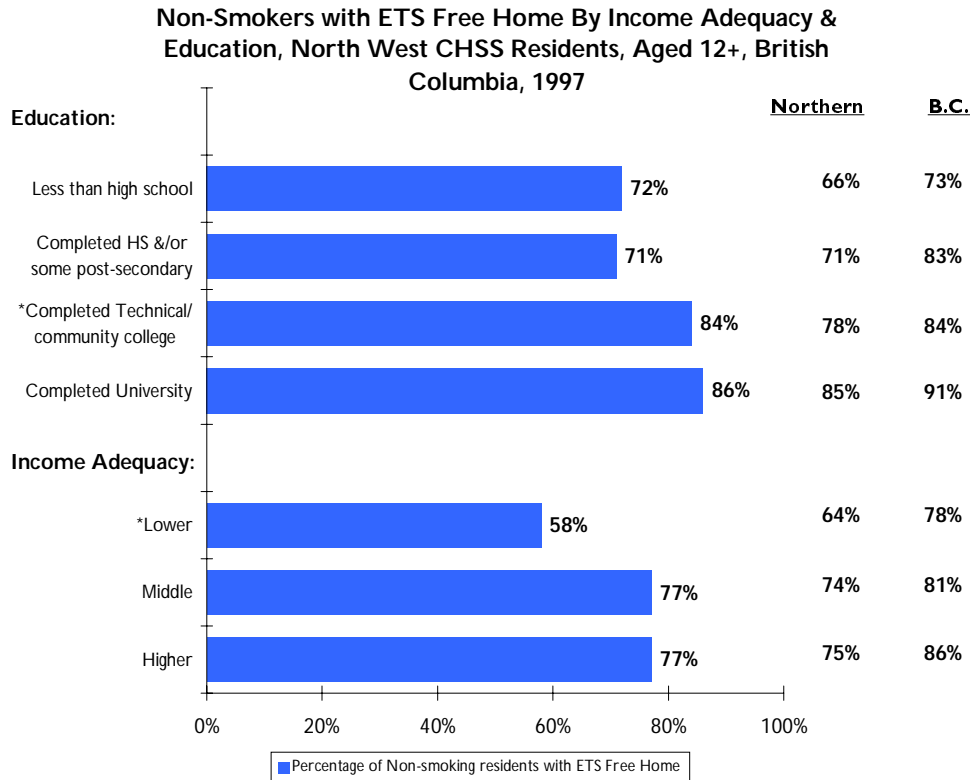
Non-smokers living in a household with no ETS exposure at all are more likely among North West residents who were born outside of Canada, in comparison to those born in Canada (84% vs. 74%). Similarly, as shown in the following graph, single non-smoking residents are least likely to live in household with no ETS exposure at all (71%), compared to non-smokers who are either married (78%) or are separated or divorced (89%).

**Non-Smokers with ETS Free Home by Marital Status & Birthplace,  
North West CHSS Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997**



Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes  
 \*\*Interpret with extreme caution, subsample base size less than 50

The probability of non-smokers living in an ETS free household is also associated with the income adequacy of the household, and their educational achievements. As exhibited in the graph below, just 58% of non-smoking residents with low income adequacy live in households without any ETS exposure at all, but this same percentage is 77% for non-smokers with middle and higher income adequacy. A similar difference is apparent between residents with less than a high school education (72%) and those who are university graduates (86%).

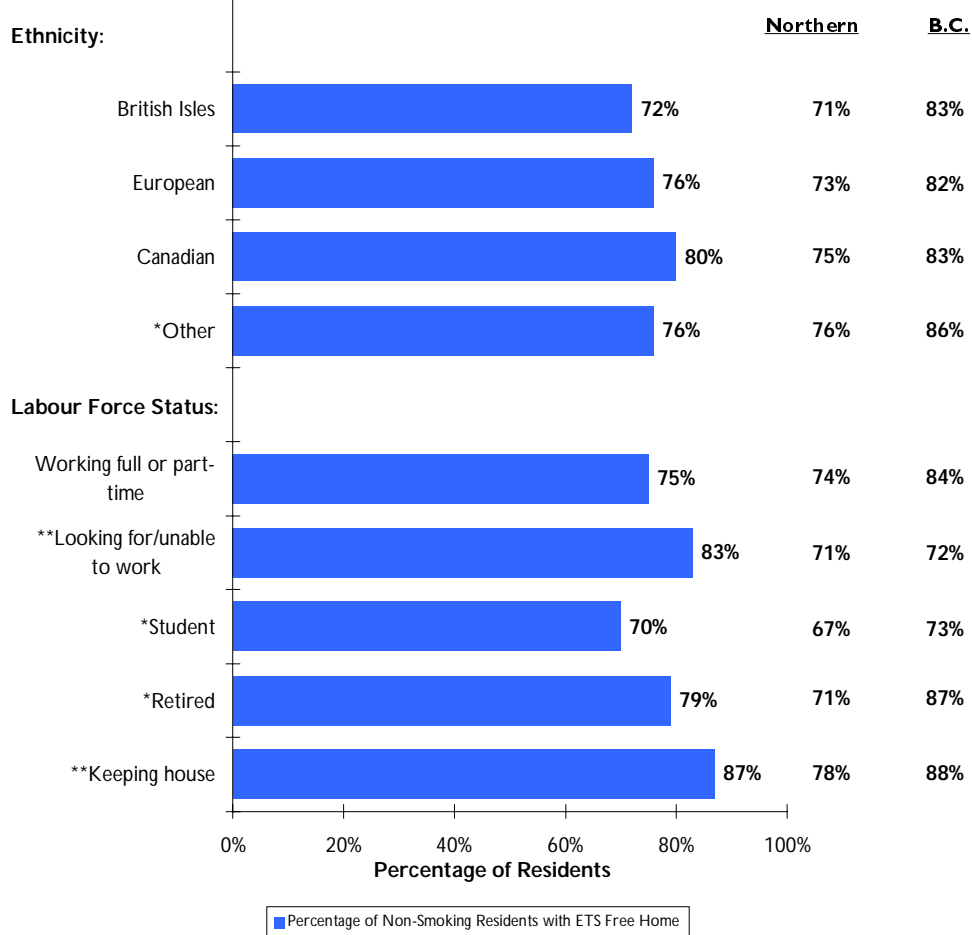


*Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes*

*\*Interpret with caution, subsample base size less than 100*

The graph below displays the same relationship for the ethnicity and labour force status of North West residents who do not smoke. Ethnic group membership appears to be somewhat related to whether non-smoking residents live in a household with no ETS exposure at all. Residents who simply identified themselves as Canadian are more likely than British residents to say they live in an ETS free home (80% vs. 72%). However, small sample numbers for some ethnic groups preclude a definitive answer. Small sample sizes also make it difficult to detect differences by labour force status, but trends suggest that students are least likely to live in a ETS free household. Conversely, those residents who are keeping house appear to be most likely to live in an ETS free home.

**Non-Smokers with ETS Free Home by Ethnicity & Labour Force Status, North West CHSS Residents, 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  
 \*\*Interpret with extreme caution, subsample base size less than 50

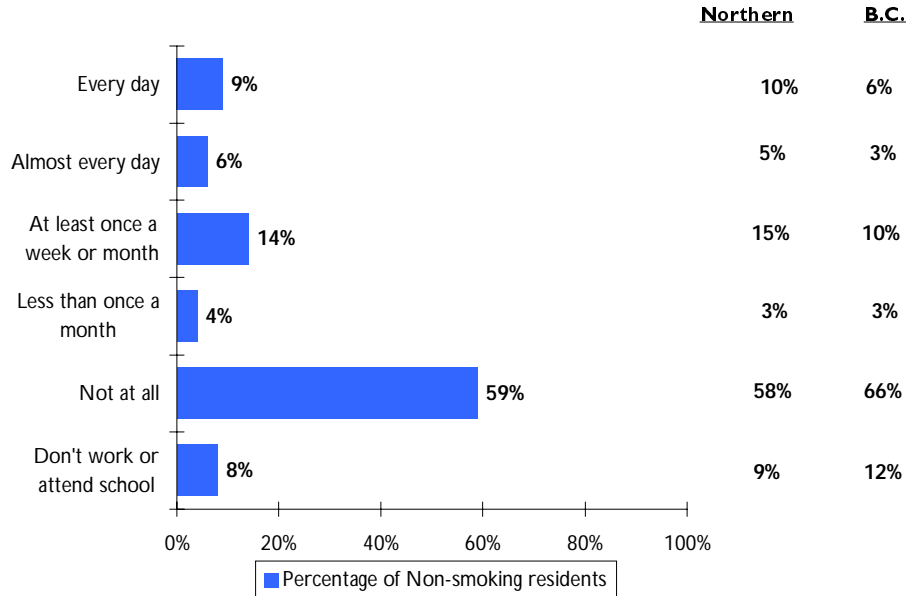
### 8.7.4 Exposure to ETS at Work or School

Non-smokers in the North West 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, 15% of non-smokers report exposure to ETS every day or nearly every day when at work or school, while 59% say they are not exposed to ETS

at all. This later percentage is generally in keeping with the survey findings for the entire North region (58%), but is lower than that for the province (66%).

**Frequency of Exposure to ETS at Work or School among Non-Smokers, North West CHSS Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997**



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

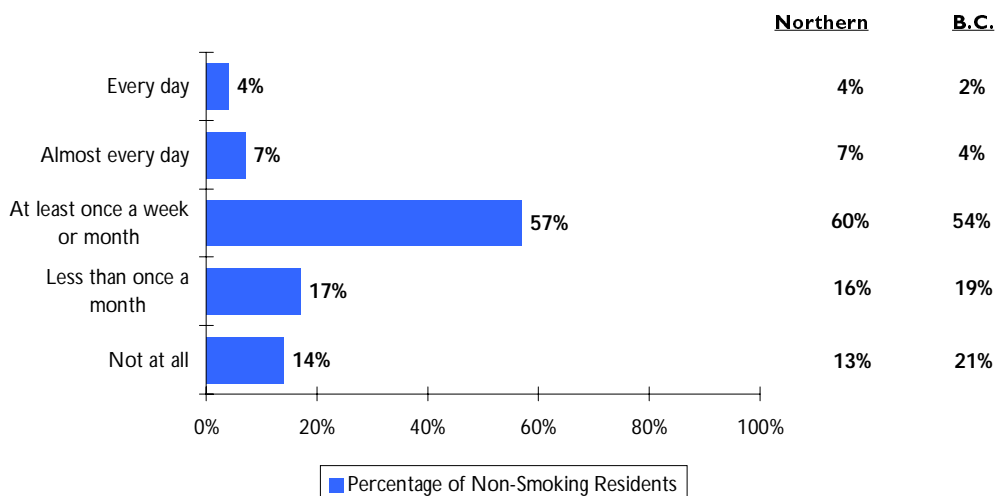
Both female residents, and those who are university graduates, are somewhat more likely to report not being exposed to any ETS while at work or attending school (65% and 75% respectively). By comparison, age, country of birth, marital status, income adequacy, ethnicity and labour force status appear to be unrelated to whether or not the non-smoking residents of the North West are exposed to ETS at work or school (data not shown).

### 8.7.5 Exposure to ETS in Other Indoor Settings

Finally, all non-smokers in the North West 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 graph below, some level of exposure to ETS in indoor settings such as other people's homes, restaurants or bars was reported by 86% of the non-smoking residents in the North West. Daily or nearly daily exposure in such settings was acknowledged by 11% of non-smoking residents. This percentage appears to be slightly higher than for the province (6%), but is the same as for the North region generally (11%).

**Frequency of Exposure to ETS in other Indoor Settings among Non-Smokers, North West CHSS Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997**

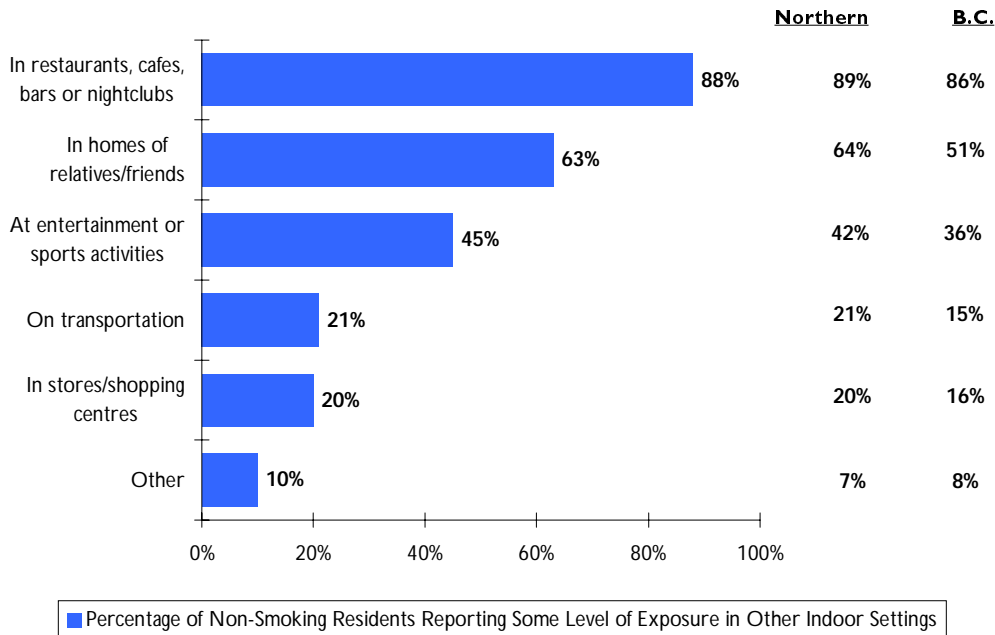


*Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.*

The 86% of non-smoking residents of the North West who indicated some level of exposure to ETS in the other indoor settings, were also asked specifically about being exposed 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 following graph, a higher proportion of non-smoking residents report exposure to ETS in settings such as other people's homes (63%) and restaurants, cafes, bars or nightclubs (88%), than they do for transportation (21%) and stores or shopping centres (20%). Moreover, this general pattern of findings is also evident in the survey data for the entire North region and for the province.

**Exposure to ETS in Specific Indoor Settings among Non-Smokers, North West CHSS Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997**



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

## 8.8 Demographics of Survey Sample

The following table presents demographic information from the weighted samples. Therefore, age and gender proportions for provincial results will be representative of province (aged 12+).

	North West CHSS Sample	North Region Sample	British Columbia Sample
	%	%	%
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	52	52	49
Female	48	48	51
<b>Age</b>			
12-19	17	17	13
20-24	11	11	9
25-44	37	36	34
45-64	26	27	28
65+	9	9	17
Average	37.9	38.4	42.8
<b>Marital Status</b>			
Single	36	35	35
Married/Common Law	51	53	49
Separated/Divorced	8	8	8
Widowed	4	4	7
<b>Children</b>			
None	65	66	76
One	16	16	12
Two or more	18	18	12
<b>Education</b>			
Less than High School	10	11	6
Some High School	21	22	16
Completed High School	28	26	23
Some or Completed Technical/Community College	19	19	21
Some University	6	7	10
Completed University	9	9	15
Graduate Degree	5	4	8
<b>Income Adequacy</b>			
Low	5	6	5
Lower-Middle	10	11	10
Middle	25	26	26
Upper-Middle	37	37	38
High	24	21	21

	North West CHSS Sample	North Region Sample	British Columbia Sample
	%	%	%
<b>Labour Force Status</b>			
Working full-time	47	44	41
Working part-time	9	9	9
Self-Employed	9	10	9
Looking for work or unable to work	8	8	6
Student	11	11	10
Retired	10	11	20
Keeping house	5	6	4
<b>Place of Birth</b>			
In Canada	86	88	79
Outside Canada	14	12	21
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
British	39	42	47
European	45	44	38
South Asian	2	2	2
South East Asian	2	2	6
Canadian	15	15	13
Aboriginal	11	8	3

Demographically, the North West region differs from British Columbia on the following:

*Age* - the North West area has more younger residents age 12-19 (17% vs. 13%) and has younger average age (37.9 years vs. 42.8 years);

*Labour Force* - the North West area has more full-time workers (47% vs. 41%) and fewer retired residents (10% vs. 20%);

*Education* - the North West area has more residents with some or less than high school (31% vs. 22%) and fewer who have completed university (14% vs. 23%);

*Place of Birth* - the North West area has more residents born inside Canada (86% vs. 79%) and fewer born outside Canada (14% vs. 21%); and,

*Ethnicity* - the North West has fewer residents with a British background (39% vs. 47%) and more with a European background (45% vs. 38%).