

8. Northern Interior RHB Report

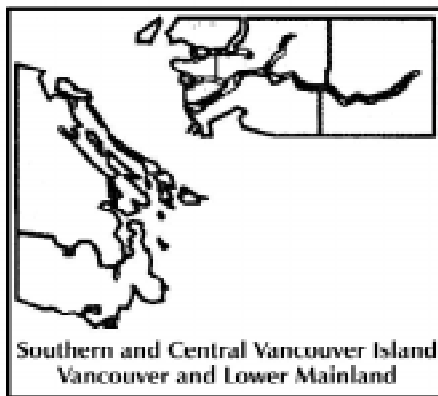
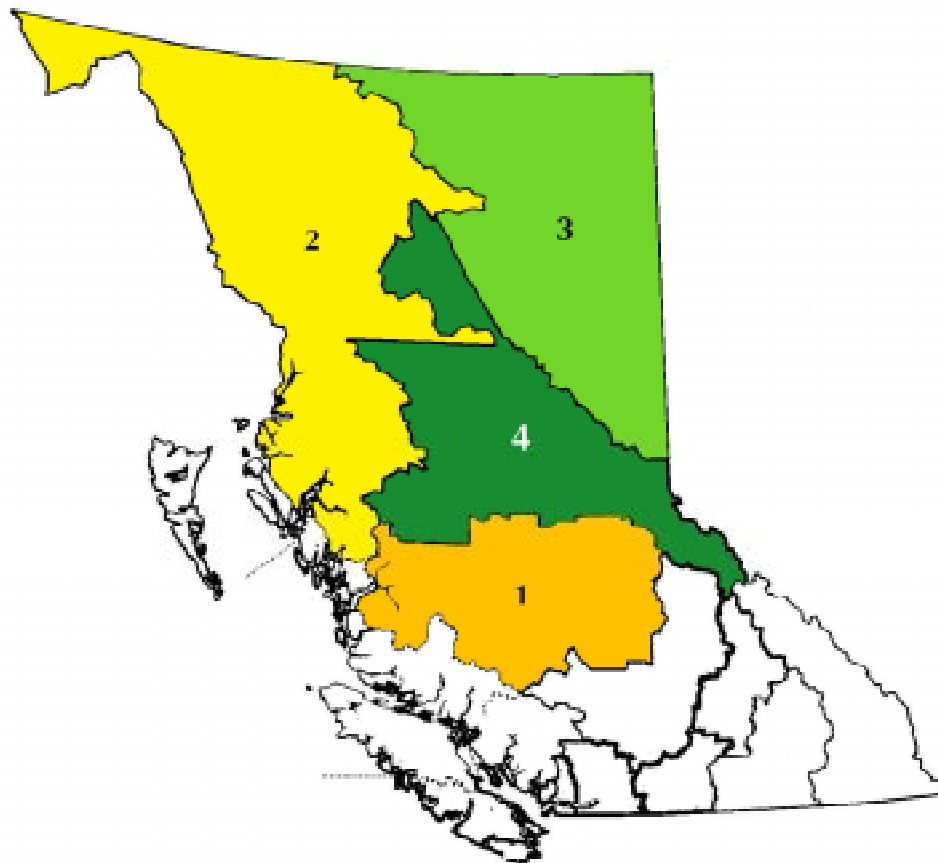
8.1 Introduction

The results presented in this report are based on approximately 1,000 interviews with B.C. residents living within the Northern Interior Regional Health Board. 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 Northern Interior have been compared with results for the province overall and a macro region called the North which includes Cariboo, Northern Interior, North West, and Peace Liard.

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- 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 21MAY97

8.2 Summary

Tobacco Use - Current cigarette smokers in the Northern Interior area make up 28% of residents while former smokers represent 25% and never smokers 46%. The vast majority of current smokers (80%) are daily smokers. The use of other forms of tobacco such as cigars, pipes and smokeless tobacco is very low at 2% or less. In looking at overall tobacco use, 30% of Northern Interior residents are current users, 26% are former users, 28% are lifetime abstainers and 17% are past experimenters or beginners. The average age of initiation for current and former cigarette smokers is similar (15.1 and 15.9). The average age of initiation is higher for ever users (current and former) of other forms of tobacco – cigars (19.3), pipes (23.6) and smokeless tobacco (21.4).

In the Northern Interior area certain socio-demographic characteristics are related to tobacco use – gender, age, marital status, education, country of birth, ethnicity and labour force status. For example, residents more likely to be users are those who are male, those who were born in Canada and those between the ages 19 to 24.

ETS - Almost two-thirds of non-smokers and 40% smokers report physical irritation to their eyes, breathing or throat due to ETS. Amongst non-smokers, 12% report every day or almost every day ETS exposure at home, 14% at work or school and 10% in other indoor settings. This results in 26% of Northern Interior non-smoking residents who are exposed to ETS every day or almost every day or the equivalent of 19% of all Northern Interior residents. In total, 49% of Northern Interior residents' health is being adversely affected by tobacco (30% through current tobacco use and 19% through ETS).

8.3 Tobacco Use Status of Northern Interior RHB Residents

Detailed information concerning past and present use of all forms of tobacco, by the residents of Northern Interior RHB (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).

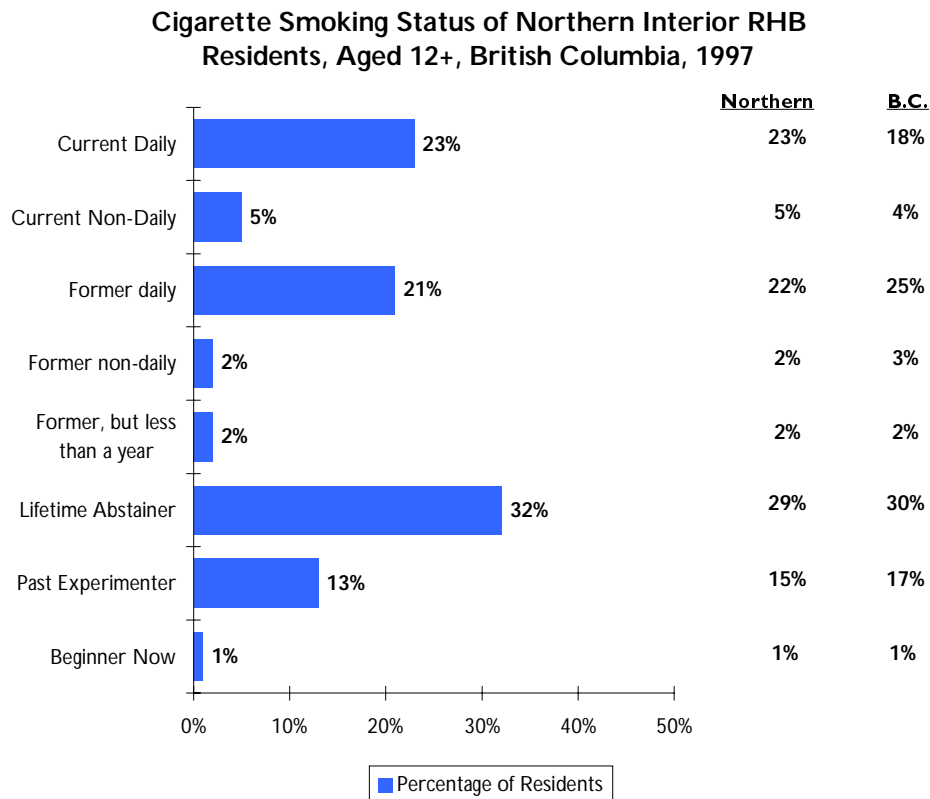
The current prevalence of cigarette smoking among all residents of the Northern Interior (aged 12+), is 28%. Daily users predominate among current cigarette smokers at 23%, while non-daily smokers represent 5% of all residents. As shown in the graph, this prevalence rate is fairly similar to that found in the North region generally (28%), but higher than for the entire province (22%).

Former cigarette smokers comprise 25% of all Northern Interior residents. This percentage includes former daily smokers (21%), former non-daily smokers (2%), and former smokers, who quit less than a year ago (2%). These percentages are also quite similar to those found for the North region and the entire province.

By contrast, Northern Interior residents who have never smoked cigarettes represent 46% of the population aged 12+ years. These never users include lifetime abstainers (32%), past experimenters (13%), 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 28% of residents in the Northern Interior, while former smokers represent 25% and never smokers 46%. Overall, these proportions are fairly similar to those found for the North region and the province.



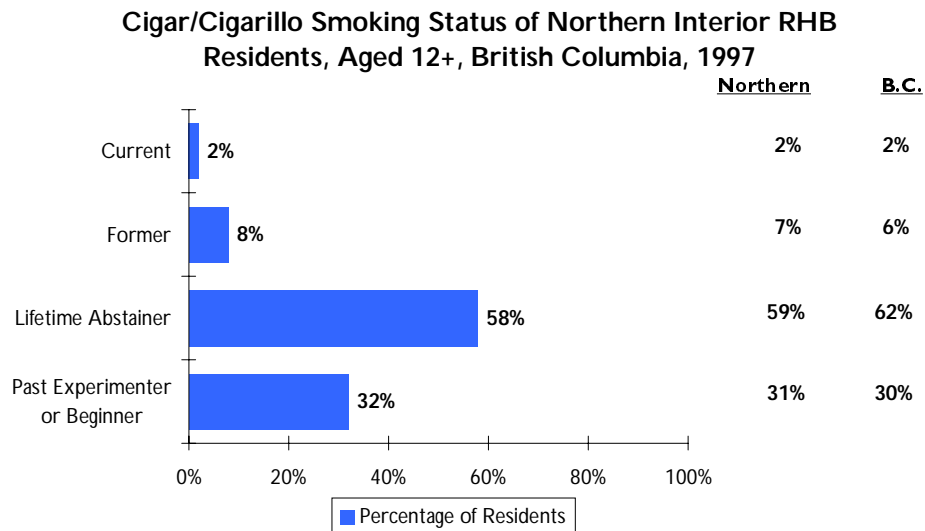
8.3.2 Alternate Tobacco Use Status

Cigar/Cigarillo Smoking Status

For cigar smoking among residents of the Northern Interior, 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 Northern Interior residents is just 2%. 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 Northern Interior represent 8% of residents, while those who have never smoked cigars make up 90% of the residential population. This never user group includes lifetime abstainers (58%) and past experimenters or beginners (32%). These percentages are also in line with those found for the North region and for the whole province.



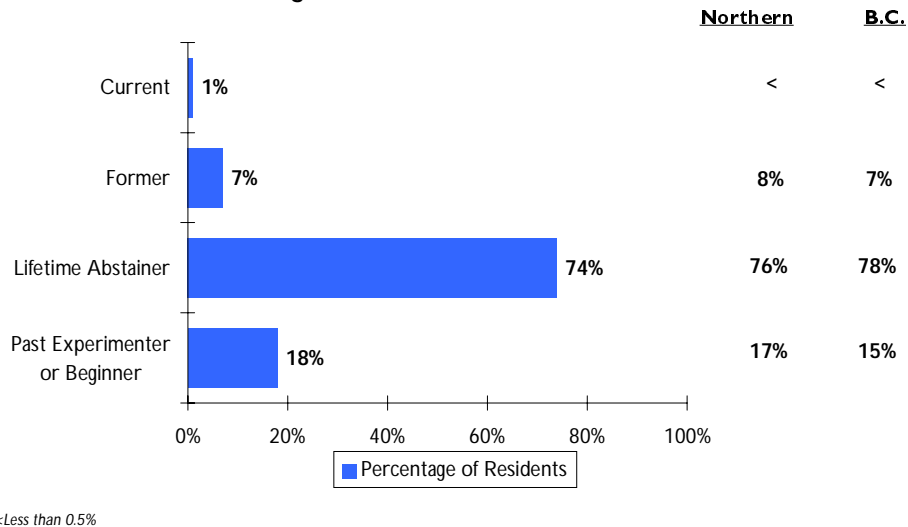
Pipe Smoking Status

For the smoking of pipe tobacco among the Northern Interior 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 Northern Interior residents is just 1%. Like cigar smoking, there are insufficient numbers of pipe smokers in the Northern Interior 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 Northern Interior represent 7% of all residents, while those who have never smoked pipe tobacco make up fully 92% of the residential population. This never user group includes lifetime abstainers (74%) and a smaller group of past experimenters or beginners (18%). These percentages are also in keeping with those found for the North region and for the whole province.

**Pipe Smoking Status of Northern Interior RHB Residents,
Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997**



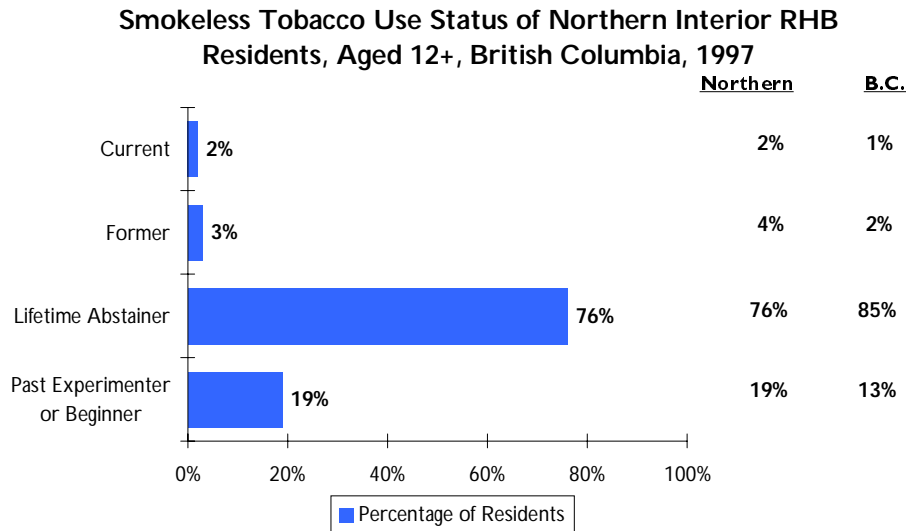
Smokeless Tobacco Use Status

Smokeless tobacco use (i.e., snuff, pinch and chewing tobacco) among Northern Interior 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 (See graph).

The current prevalence of smokeless tobacco use among the residents of the Northern Interior is just 2%. 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.

Former users of smokeless tobacco products represent only 3% of all Northern Interior residents, while residents who have never used smokeless tobacco represent fully 95% of the population aged 12+ years. As shown in the graph, this never user group includes lifetime abstainers (76%) and past experimenters or beginners (19%). This percentage

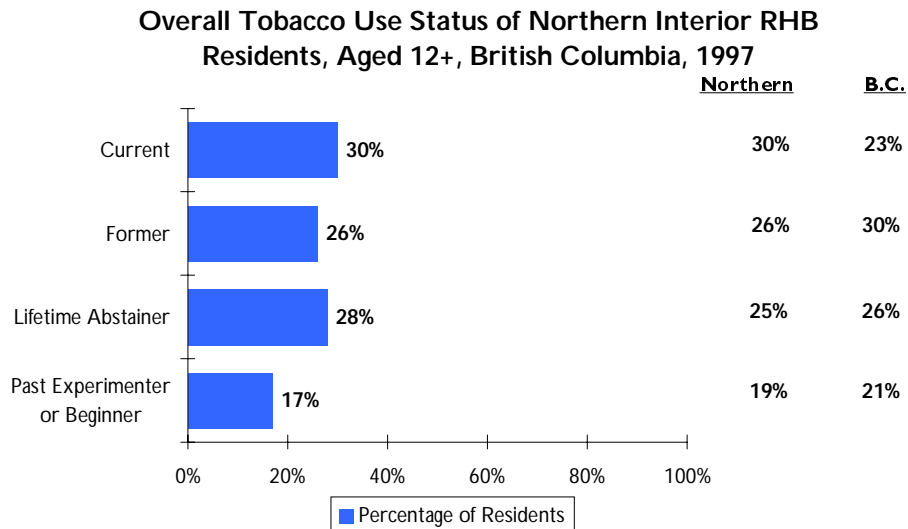
for past experimenters/beginners in the Northern Interior is slightly higher than the survey findings for the province as a whole (13%), but is consistent with results for the rest of the North region (19%).



8.3.3 Overall Tobacco Use Status

The current prevalence of any form of tobacco use among Northern Interior residents aged 12+ years is summarized in the graph following. 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 Northern Interior.

Non-use is presently the norm among residents of the Northern Interior, 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 30% of residents are currently using at least one form of tobacco. Former tobacco users represent 26% of the Northern Interior population, while never users include past experimenters or beginners at 17% and lifetime abstainers at 28%. As shown in the graph, these findings are similar to that found elsewhere in province, with the prevalence rate for current users the same as the regional rate of 30%, but higher than the provincial rate of 23%.



8.4 Social Demographics of Tobacco Use

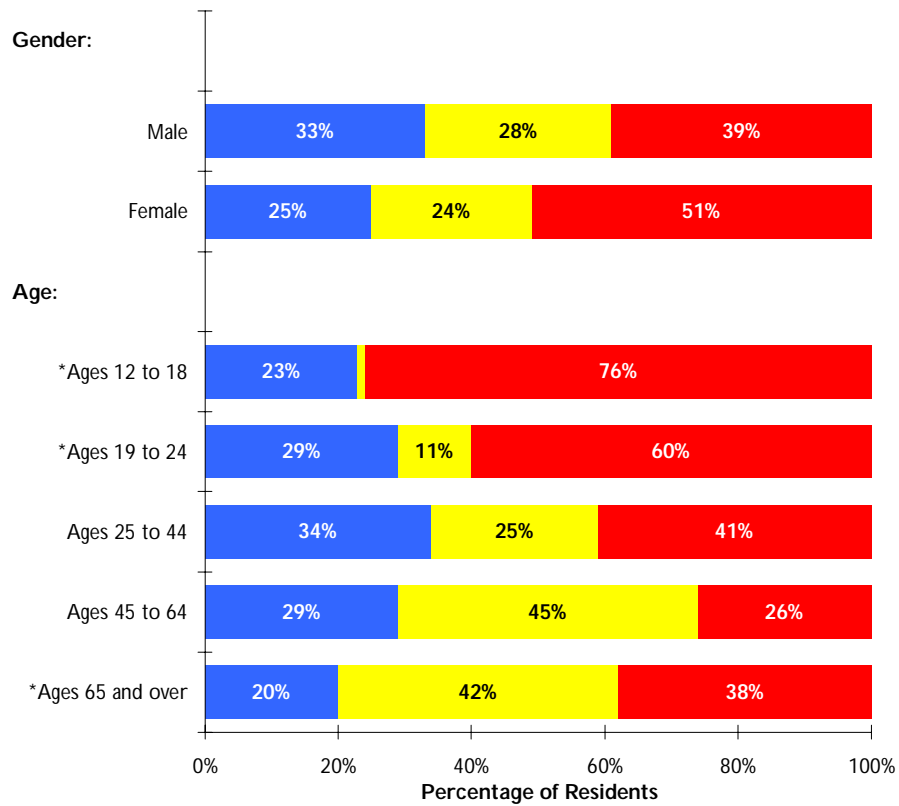
In this section, use of any form of tobacco (i.e., current, former vs. never) has been cross tabulated against a range of social demographic characteristics of residents, in order to demonstrate a number of social and economic variations in tobacco usage. As already outlined in *Overall Tobacco Use Status*, 30% of all Northern Interior residents are current tobacco users, 26% are former users, and 45% 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 differences between male and female residents, age related differences are more apparent. Male residents are slightly more likely than female residents to be both current tobacco users (33% vs. 25%) and former tobacco users (28% vs. 24%). On the other hand, female residents are more likely than male residents to have never been a tobacco user (51% vs. 39%).

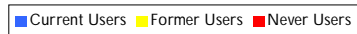
In terms of age, current tobacco use is highest among 25 to 44 year olds (34%) and lowest among 12 to 18 year olds (23%) and those aged 65 and over (20%). Being a former user of tobacco rises steadily with age, from 1% among 12 to 18 year olds to more than 40% among residents aged 45 and over. On the other hand, the proportion of residents who have never used tobacco declines dramatically from 76% of 12 to 18 years olds to 41% of those aged 25 to 44 years and 26% of those aged 45 to 64 years.

Current, Former & Never Users of Any Form of Tobacco among Northern Interior RHB Residents by Gender and Age, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997



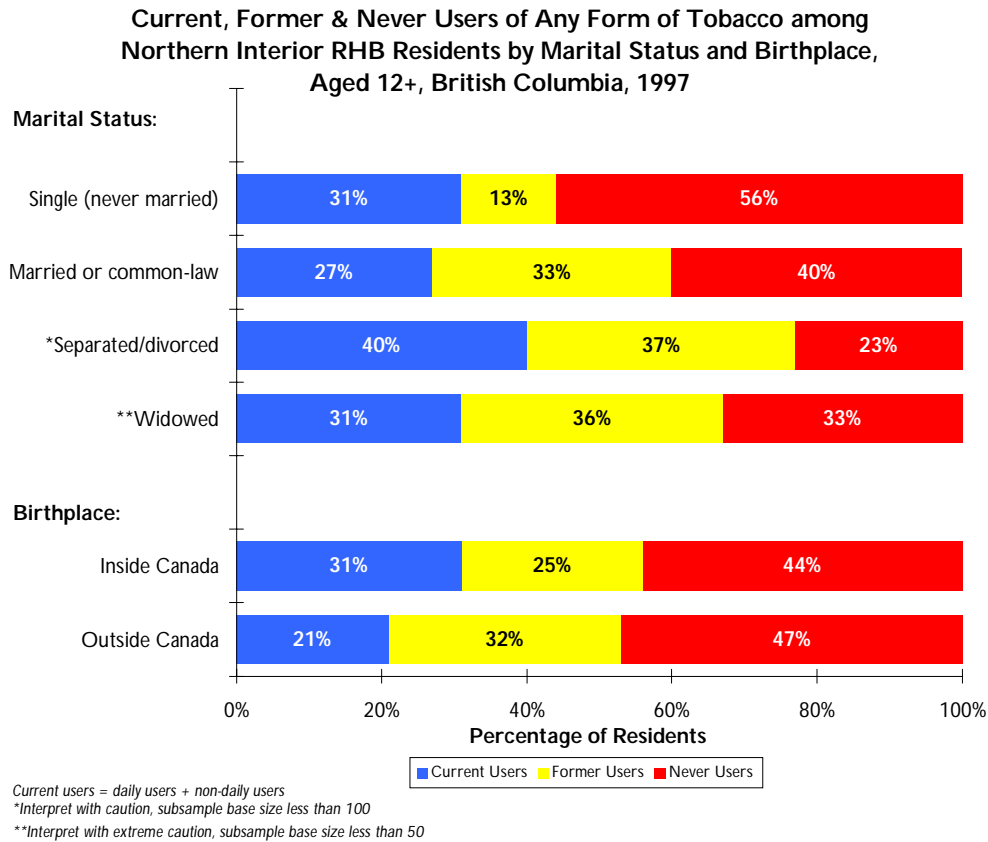
Current users = daily users + non-daily users

*Interpret with caution, subsample base size less than 100



8.4.2 Birthplace and Marital Status

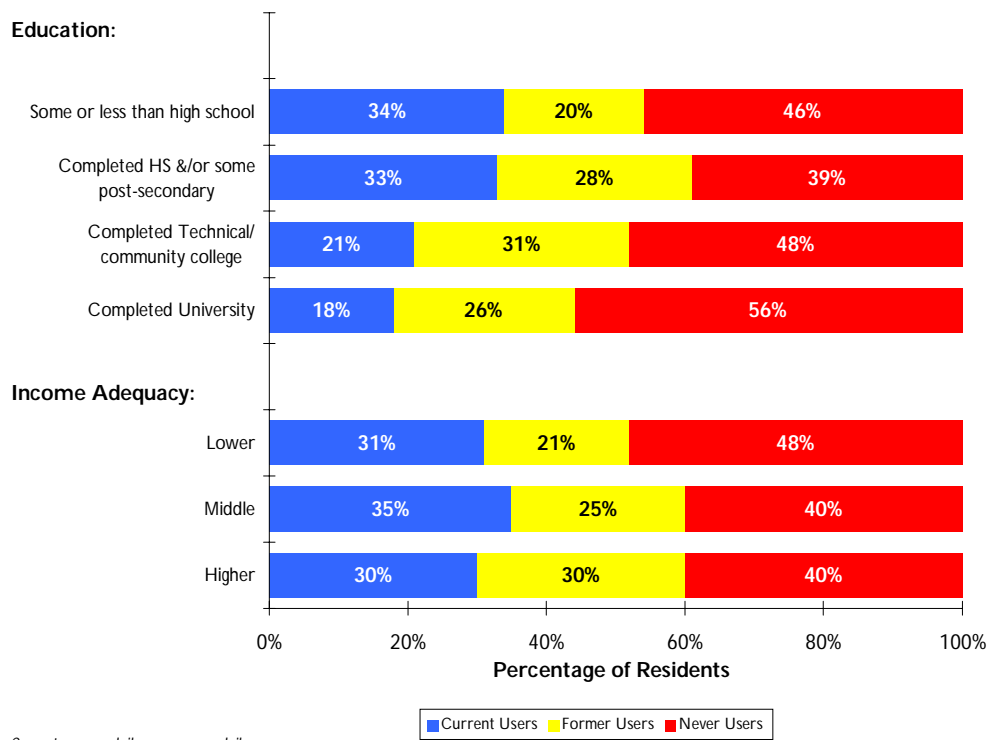
The graph below displays the relationship between tobacco use and place of birth, as well as marital status. Residents of the Northern Interior born inside Canada are more likely than those born outside of Canada to be current users of tobacco (31% vs 21%). Differences in rates of tobacco use are also clearly evident as a function of marital status. For instance, the proportion of current users is highest among residents who are separated or divorced (40%), while those residents who have never married (i.e., single) are most likely (56%) 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. There appears to be no consistent relationship between income adequacy and one's propensity to use tobacco in the Northern Interior. However, there is a more clear cut relationship between educational attainment and tobacco use. Residents with some high school or who have completed high school are the most likely to be current users (34% and 33% respectively). Meanwhile, those residents who are university graduates are the most likely to have never used tobacco (56%), and are least likely to be current users (18%).

Current, Former & Never Users of Any Form of Tobacco among Northern Interior RHB Residents by Education & Income Adequacy, British Columbia, 1997

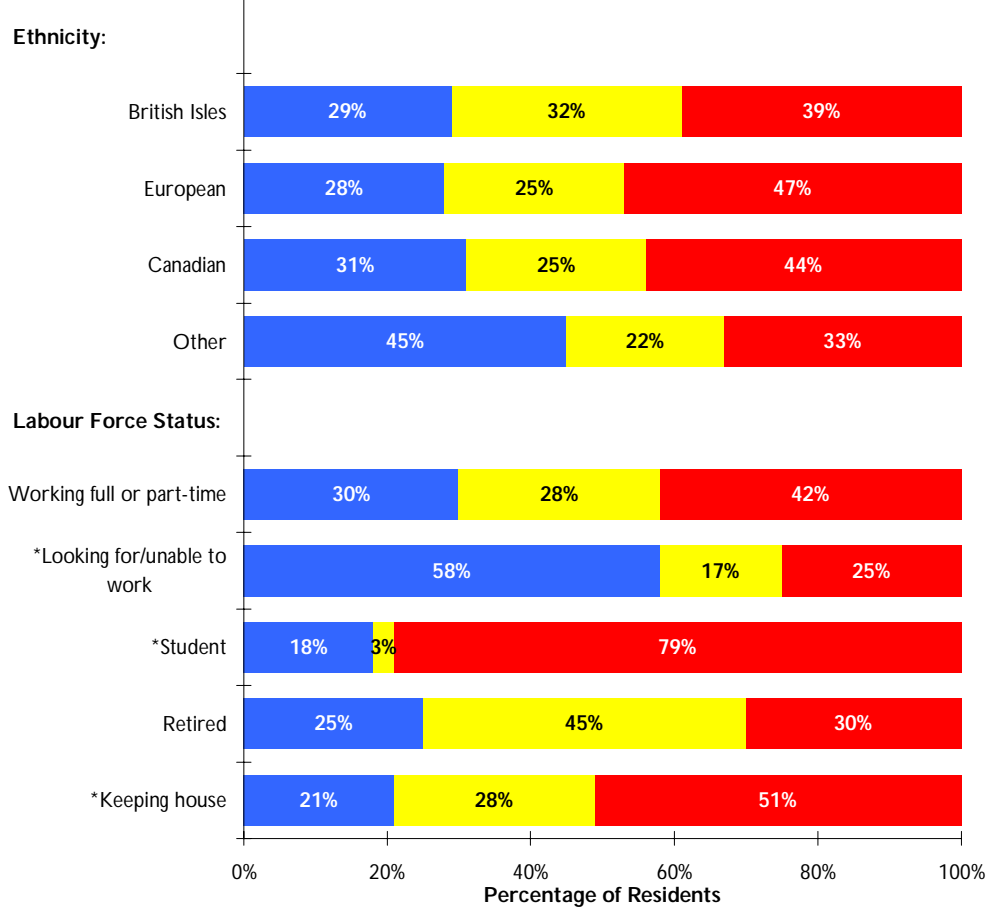


8.4.4 Ethnicity and Labour Force Status

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 group membership is apparent. For instance, the proportion of former users is highest among British residents (32%), while current use is highest among residents who identified some "other" ethnic group (45%).

Variations in tobacco use according to labour force status are also apparent from the graph. For example, among Northern Interior residents who are either looking for work or who are unable to work the proportion of current users is 58%. By contrast, the proportion of current users among those working full or part-time is just 30%. Current use of any form of tobacco by students and retired residents is fairly low (18% and 25% 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 Northern Interior RHB 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

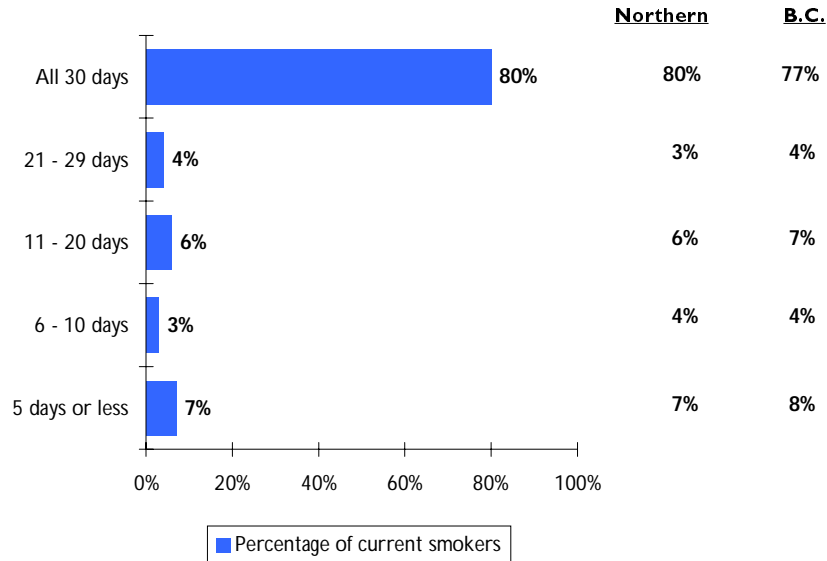
8.5 Frequency of Cigarette Smoking among Current Users

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.

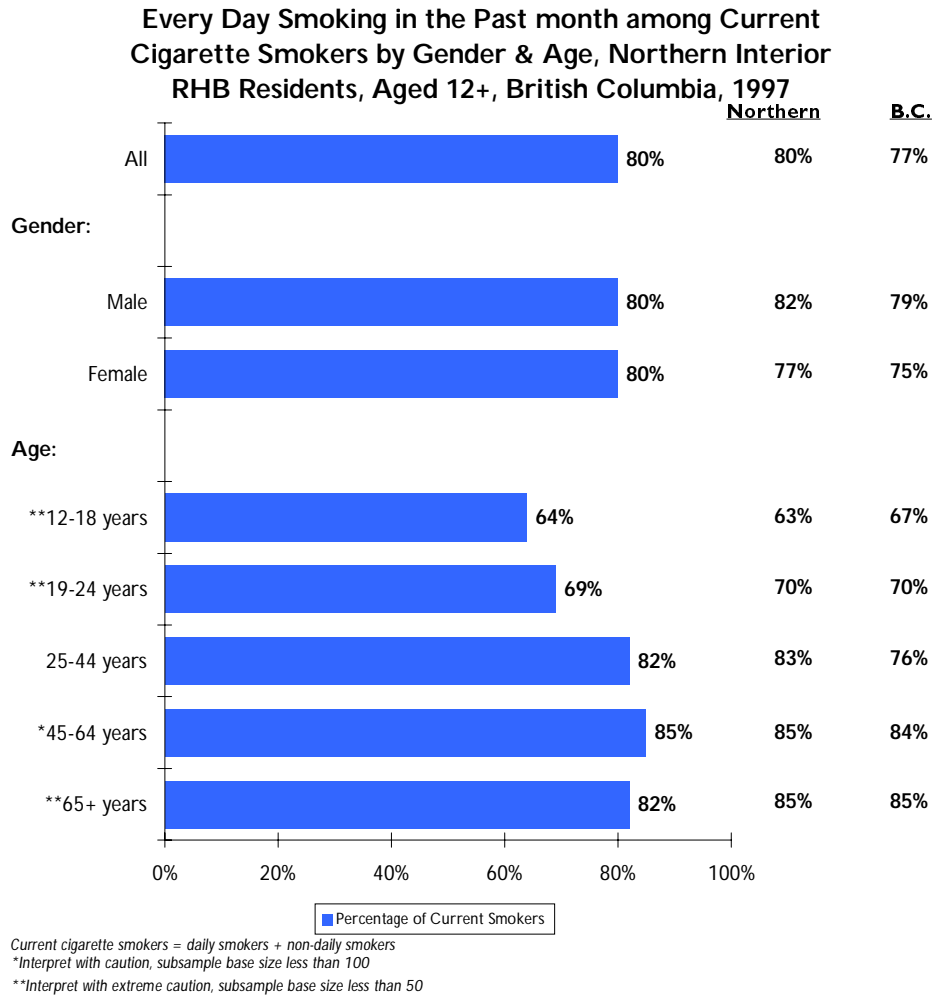
8.5.1 Days Smoked in Past Month

The number of days in the past month in which current cigarette smokers in the Northern Interior 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 7% of smokers, while smoking on all 30 days during the past month was reported by fully 80% of current cigarette smokers. This rate for every day smoking is slightly higher than that found across the province (77%), but the same as in the North region generally (80%).

Days Smoked in the Past month among Current Cigarette Smokers, Northern Interior RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997



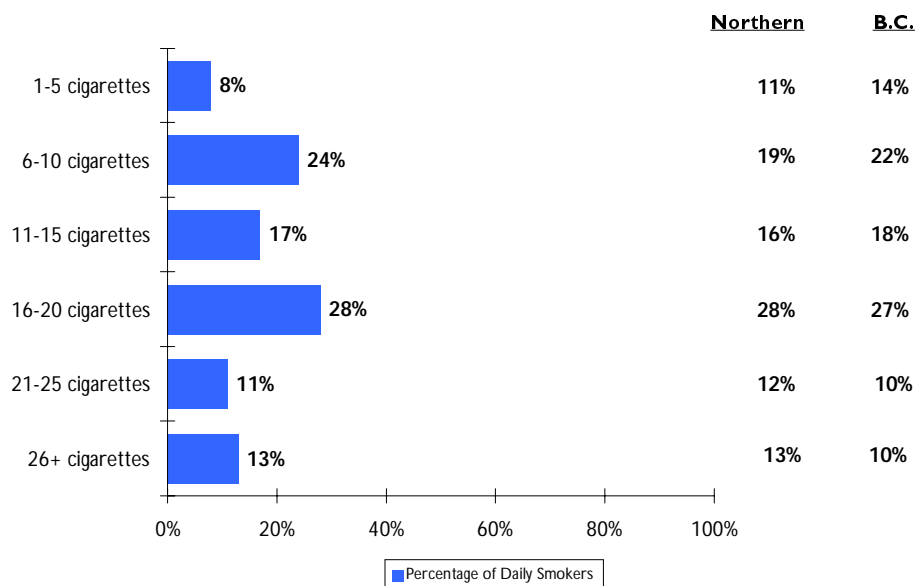
As shown in the following graph, males and females are equally likely to report smoking on all 30 days in the past month (i.e., are daily smokers). Smoking on all 30 days during the past month is lowest among 12 to 18 year old cigarette smokers (64%) and then rises with each aging grouping to a high of 85% for ages 45 to 64, and then declines slightly for ages 65+ years (82%). These differences in percentages by age group are generally consistent with those reported by cigarette smokers in the North region and in the province. It does, however, seem noteworthy that every day smoking by females in the Northern Interior is slightly higher than in the province (80% vs. 75%).



8.5.2 Cigarettes per Day by Daily Smokers

Among daily cigarette smokers in the Northern Interior only 8% report averaging 5 or fewer cigarettes per day, but as can be seen in the graph below, 24% report averaging more than 20 cigarettes per day. The average number cigarettes smoked per day by daily cigarette smokers in the Northern Interior area is 17.5. This average number is very close to the average 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, Northern Interior RHB Residents,
Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997**



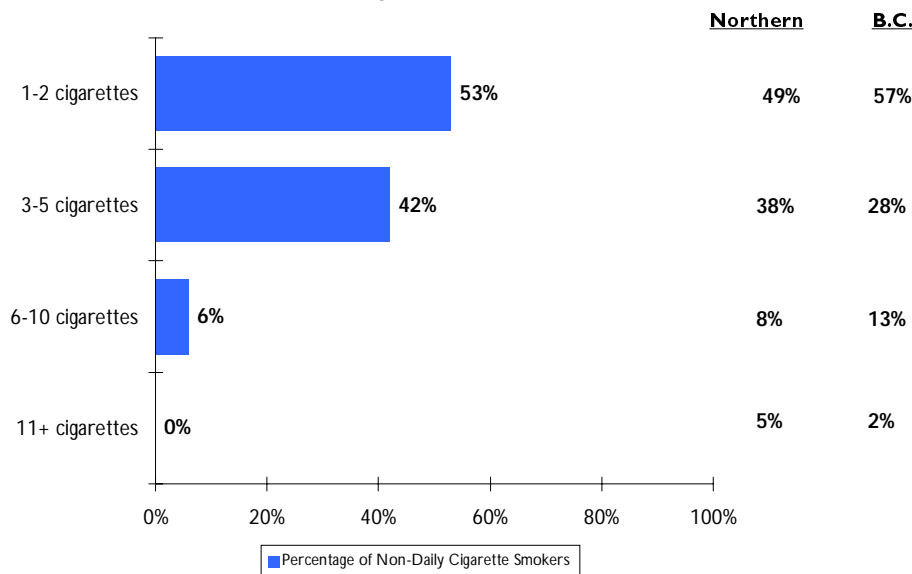
As shown in the table below, on average males smoke more per day than females (18.4 vs. 16.4). Additionally, the average number of cigarettes per day is highest in the 45 to 64 year age grouping (18.6), and lowest in the 12 to 18 age group (14.0). These findings are similar to those in the North region and in the province as a whole, with the exception that the average for 12 to 18 year olds in the Northern Interior is higher than that found elsewhere in the province (14.0 per day vs. 11.4 and 10.5).

Average Number of Cigarettes per Day Among Daily Cigarette Smokers by Gender & Age, Northern Interior Residents Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997			
	Northern Interior	North Region	B.C.
All	17.5	17.9	16.6
Gender:			
Male	18.4	19.3	18.2
Female	16.4	16.0	15.0
Age:			
**12-18 years	14.0	11.4	10.5
**19-24 years	13.3	14.2	13.3
25-44 years	18.2	18.8	16.8
*45-64 years	18.6	20.0	19.2
**65+ years	17.0	17.9	17.1
*Interpret with caution, subsample base size less than 100			
**Interpret with extreme caution, subsample base size less than 50			

8.5.3 Cigarettes per Day by Non-Daily Smokers

The number of cigarettes smoked per day by non-daily cigarette smokers in the Northern Interior (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 53% of these smokers report having only 1 to 2 per day, 42% report having 3 to 5 per day, and just 6% report having 6 or more cigarettes per day on the days that they smoke. The average number of cigarettes per day for this non-daily group is 2.8. These percentages differ slightly from those of other non-daily cigarette smokers in the North region and the province and are reflected in the average for cigarettes per day in the RHB (2.8 versus 3.8 in the region and 3.5 provincially).

Average Number of Cigarettes per Day on Smoking Days among Non-Daily Cigarette Smokers†, Northern Interior RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997



Averages: RHB=2.8; Region=3.8; B.C.=3.5

Interpret with extreme caution, total base size less than 50

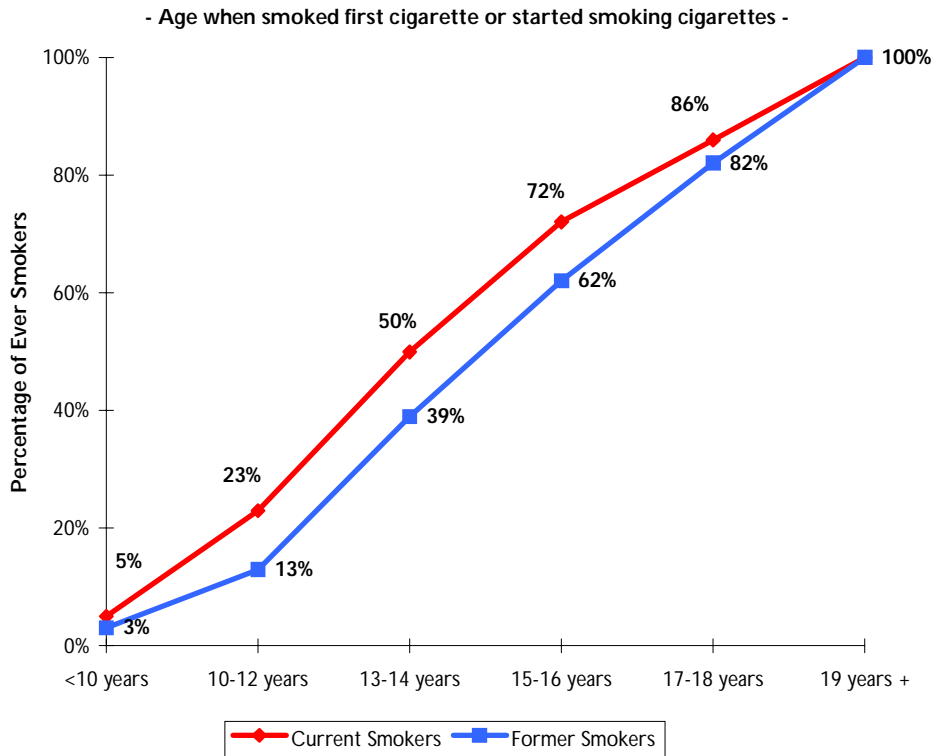
8.6 Age of Initiation for Tobacco Use

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 Northern Interior is displayed in the graph below for both current cigarette smokers and former cigarette smokers. Among **current** cigarette smokers, 23% began smoking before the age of 13, 50% began smoking before age 15 and 86% began smoking before age 19. The average age of initiation for those Northern Interior residents who currently smoke cigarettes is 15.1 years. This pattern of responses is similar among **former** cigarette smokers, with 13% indicating they began smoking before the age of 13, 39% began before age 15 and 82% began before age 19. The average age of initiation among former cigarette smokers is 15.9 years.

Cumulative Distribution for Age of Initiation among Current & Former Cigarette Smokers, Northern Interior RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997

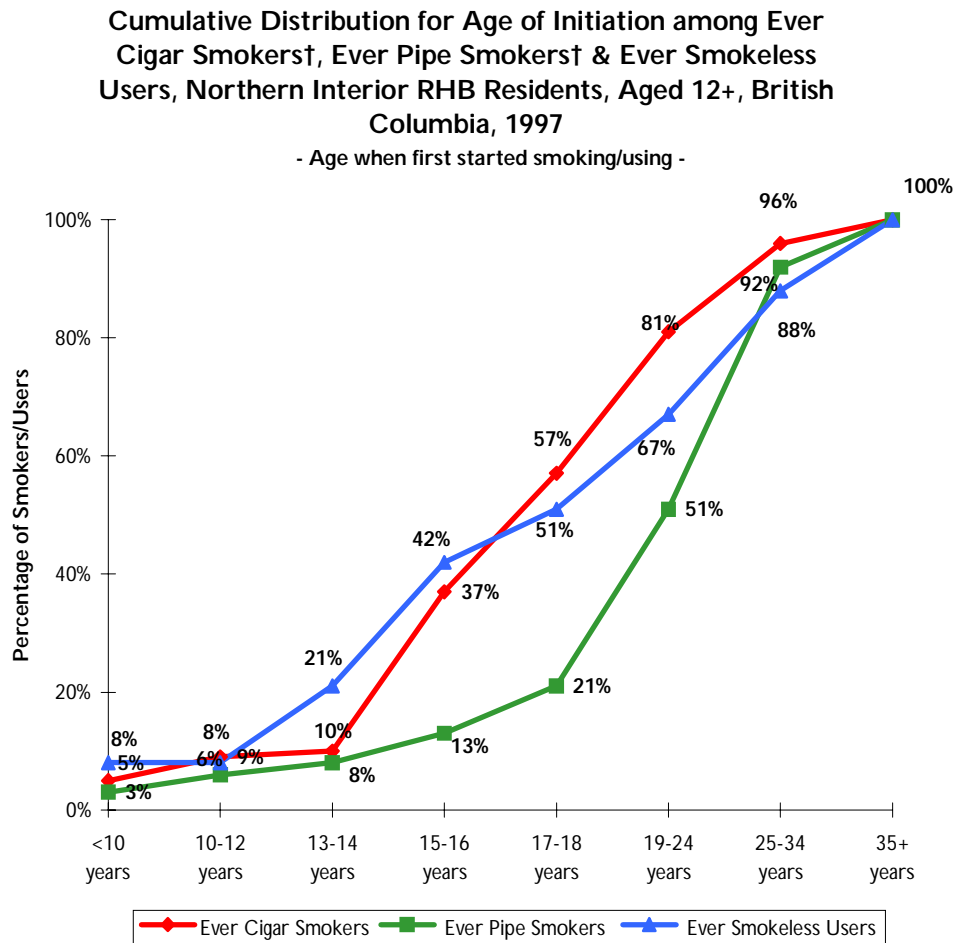


As shown in the table below, these average ages for the onset of cigarette smoking are nearly identical to those observed in the North region and very close to those for the entire province.

Average Age of Initiation among Current & Former Cigarette Smokers, Northern Interior Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997			
	Northern Interior	North Region	B.C.
	Years	Years	Years
Current	15.1	15.2	15.7
Former	15.9	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 Northern Interior who have ever used (current + former) cigars, pipes and smokeless tobacco are displayed in the graph below.



Ever = Current & Former
 †Interpret with caution, total base size less than 100

Among those Northern Interior residents who have ever smoked cigars, just 9% began smoking cigars before age 13, 57% began before age 19, 81% began before age 25, and 96% began before age 35. Compared to cigarette smoking, the average age of onset for

cigar smoking is somewhat older at 19.3 years. Yet, this is similar to the averages found for cigar smokers in the North region (20.6 years) and the province (22.8 years).

For Northern Interior residents who have ever smoked pipe tobacco, just 6% began smoking a pipe before age 13, 21% began before age 19, 51% began before age 25, and 92% began before age 35. The average age of onset for pipe smoking is even older than that for cigars at 23.6 years. Yet, this average is also consistent with the average ages found for pipe smokers in the North region (24.3 years) and the province (24.6 years).

Among those residents of the Northern Interior who have ever used smokeless tobacco, 8% began before age 13, 51% began before age 19, 67% began before age 25, and 88% began before age 35. The average age of onset for smokeless tobacco use is lower than that of pipes at 21.4 years. This average age for the onset of smokeless tobacco use is also in keeping with the averages for the North region (20.7 years) and for the entire province (21.8 years).

Average Age of Initiation among Ever Cigar Smoker†, Ever Pipe Smoker† & Ever Smokeless Users‡, Northern Interior Residents of RHB, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997			
	Northern Interior	North Region	B.C.
	Years	Years	Years
Ever Cigar Smoker	19.3	20.6	22.8
Ever Pipe Smoker	23.6	24.3	24.6
Ever Smokeless User	21.4	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 Northern Interior 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.

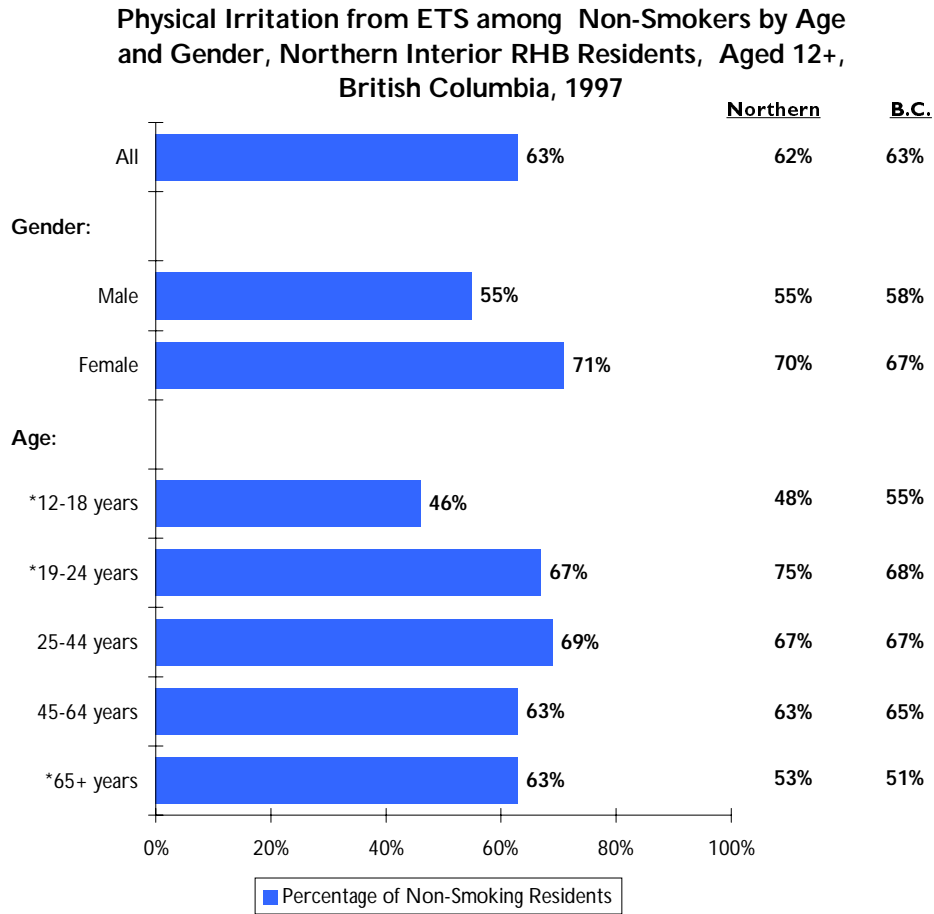
8.7.1 Irritation From Exposure to ETS

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 Northern Interior residents who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or a pipe) report they are usually physically irritated by ETS. Interestingly, even 40% of current smokers report physical irritation from tobacco smoke.

Some gender differences in the proportion of non-smokers are evident with 55% of males versus 71% of females indicating they are usually irritated by ETS. Age related differences are also evident with just 46% of non-smokers under the age of 19 being irritated by ETS. As displayed in the graph, this general pattern of findings by age and gender 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 (51%) than those who have completed high school (68%) or university (64%). By contrast, there are no substantial differences in the proportion of

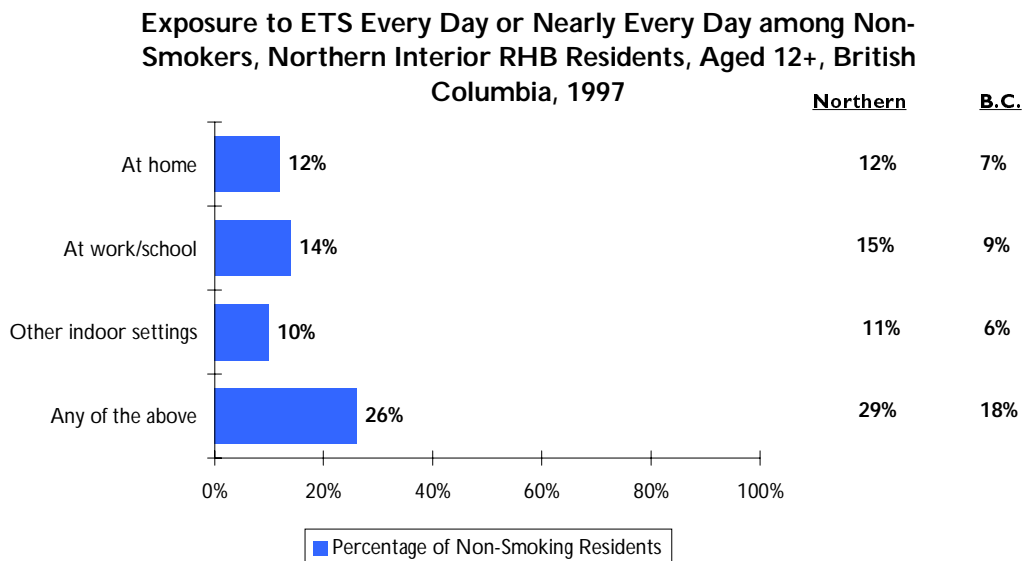
non-smoking residents who are irritated by ETS as a function of country of birth, marital status, income adequacy, ethnicity, and labour force status.



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

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 Northern Interior. 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 26% 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 about the same as that observed for the North region (29%), but is higher than for the province as a whole (18%). Furthermore, it seems especially noteworthy that the 26% of non-smoking residents, who are exposed to ETS daily or nearly daily, translates into 19% of all Northern Interior residents.

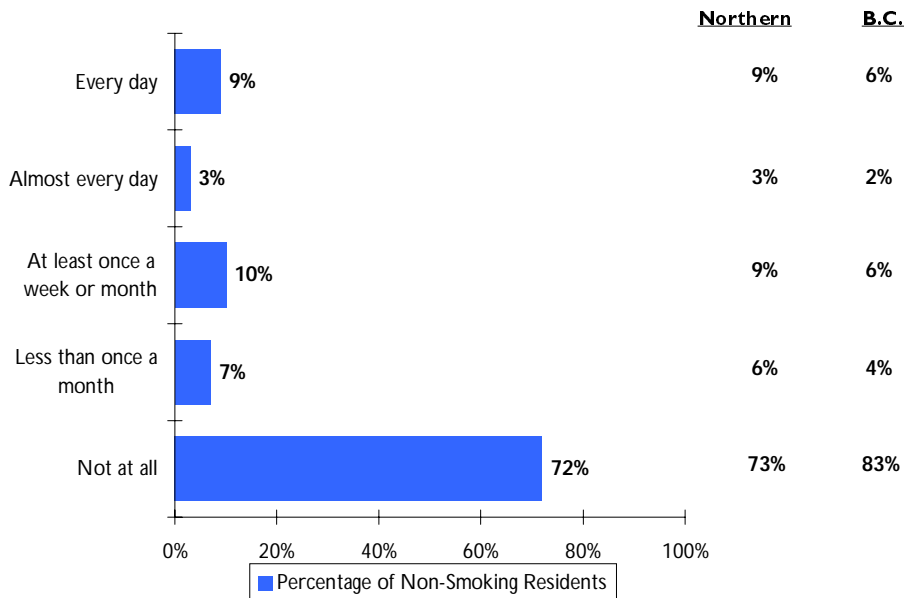


Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.

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, 9% of non-smokers in the Northern Interior report being exposed to ETS inside their home on a daily or nearly daily basis. On the other hand, 72% report no exposure to ETS at all in their homes. Non-smokers in the Northern Interior have slightly higher ETS exposure levels at home than their counterparts in the whole province, but are on par with those in the North region generally.

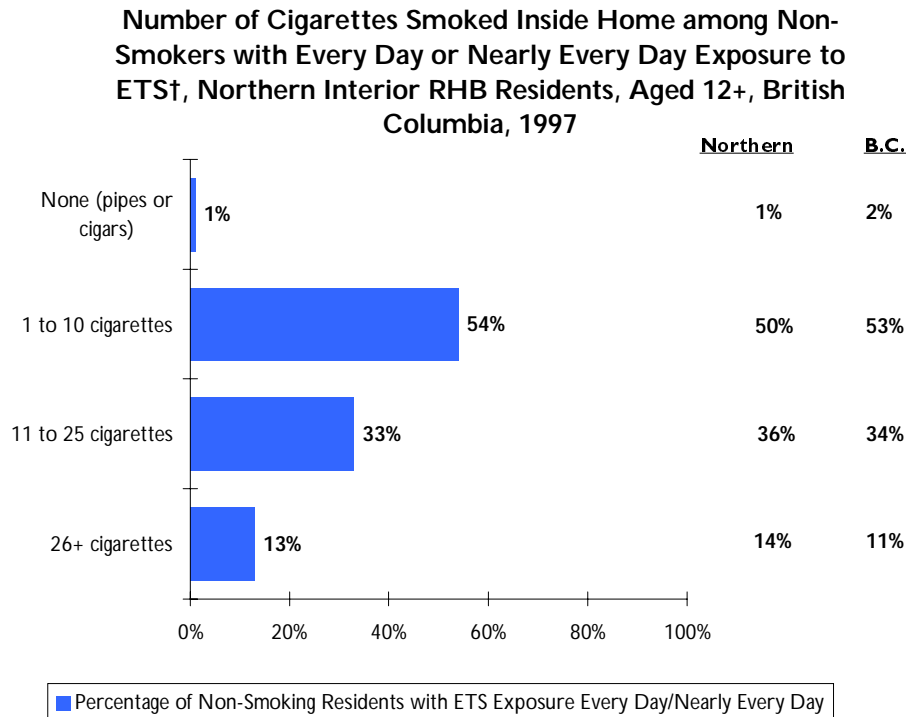
Frequency of Exposure to ETS at Home among Non-Smokers, Northern Interior RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997



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

Northern Interior 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. As shown in the graph following, 54% of these residents indicated they are

exposed to smoke from 1 to 10 cigarettes per day and 33% 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 16.6, and this average is about the same as other non-smokers in the North region (16.7), but slightly higher than in the whole province (14.3).

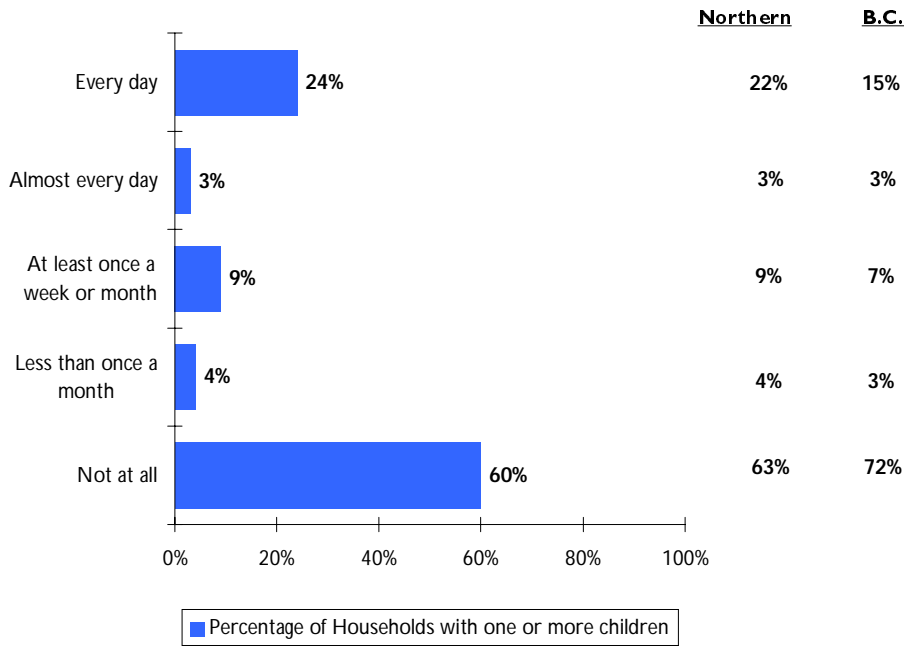


Average: Northern Interior RHB = 16.6; Region = 16.7; B.C. = 14.3

†Interpret with caution, total base size less than 100

Households with Children: ETS exposure in Northern Interior households with children age 11 and under are highlighted in the graph below. In 27% of these households there is daily or nearly daily exposure to ETS, and in 60% there is no ETS exposure at all. These percentages are slightly different, and less positive, than are found for households with children in the whole province (18% - daily/nearly daily, 72% - not at all) but about the same as found in the North region generally (25% - daily/nearly daily, 63% - not at all).

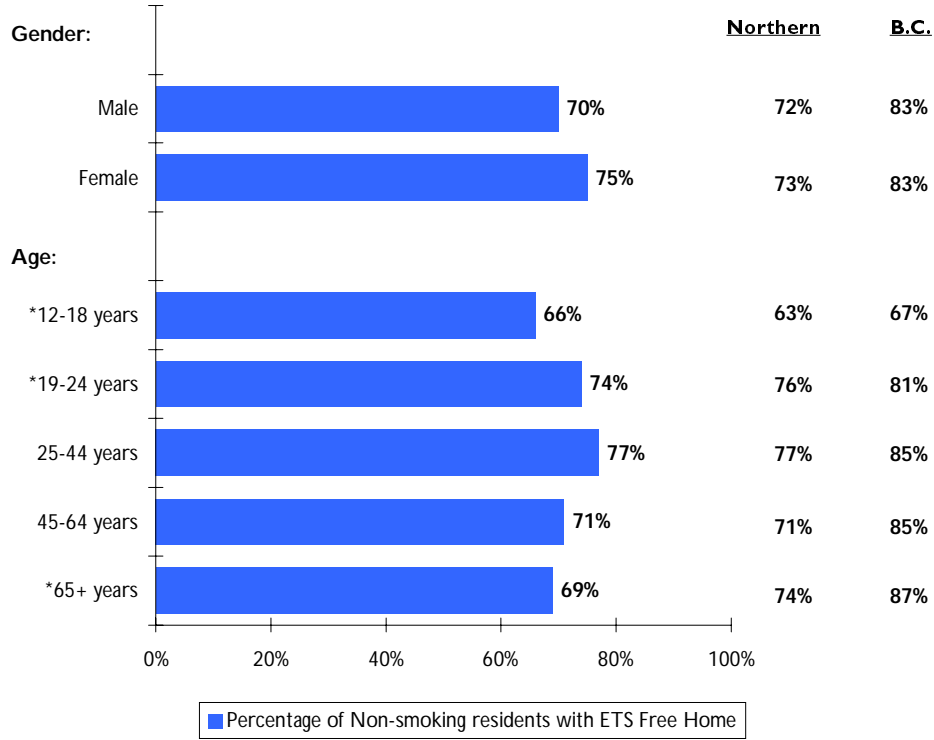
Frequency of Exposure to ETS in Homes with Children Aged 11 Years and Under, Northern Interior RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997



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 20.0. This average is quite close to that for the North region (19.3), but is marginally higher than that found for such households in the entire province (18.2).

ETS Free Households Non-smoking residents of the Northern Interior who live in households with no ETS exposure at all are slightly more likely to be female than male (75% vs. 70%), but as shown in the graph, this probability tends to vary more with the age of the resident. For instance, just 66% of 12 to 18 year old non-smoking residents live in households with no ETS exposure at all, but this percentage rises to 77% among non-smokers age 25 to 44 years.

**Non-Smokers with ETS Free Households by Gender & Age,
Northern Interior RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British
Columbia, 1997**

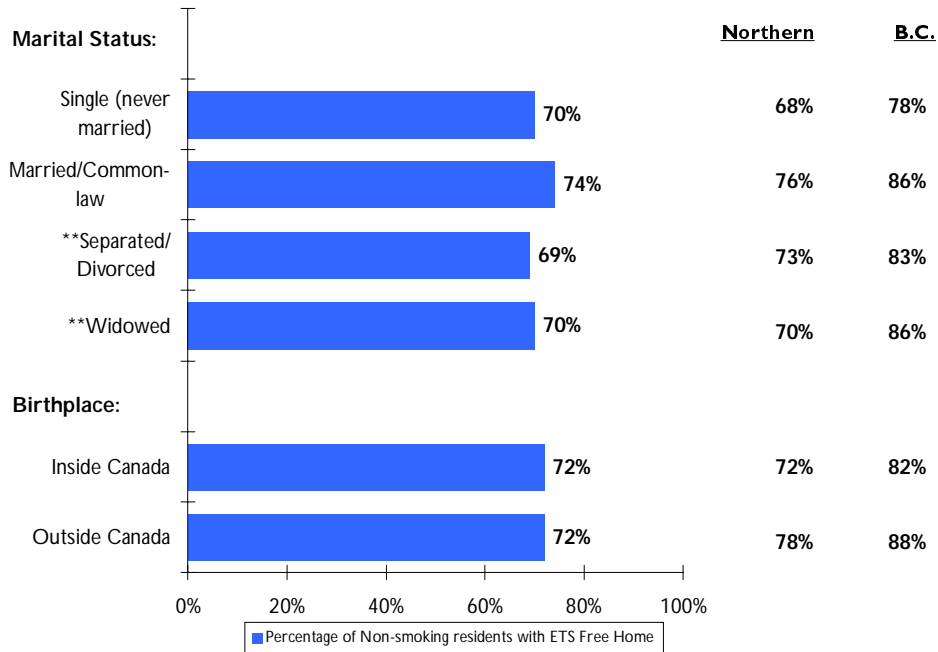


Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.

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

As shown in the following graph, there are few differences in the proportion of non-smokers living in an ETS free home by place of birth or marital status. However, separated or divorced non-smokers are slightly less likely to live in household with no ETS exposure at all (69%), while non-smokers who are married are the slightly more likely to live in an ETS free home (74%).

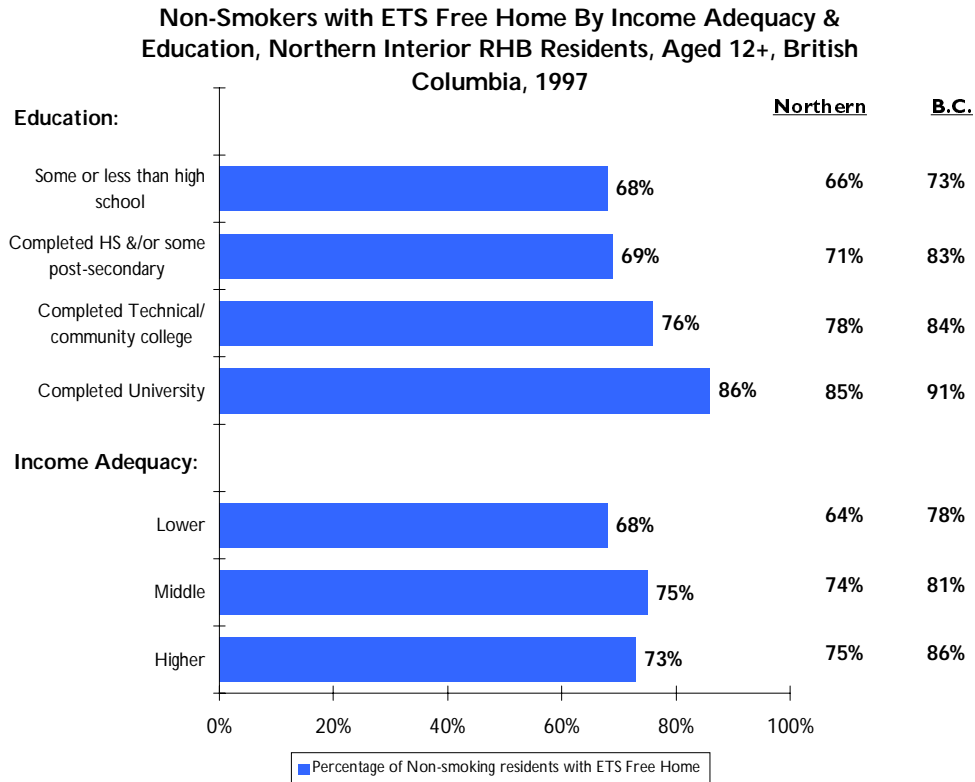
**Non-Smokers with ETS Free Home by Marital Status & Birthplace,
Northern Interior RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997**



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

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

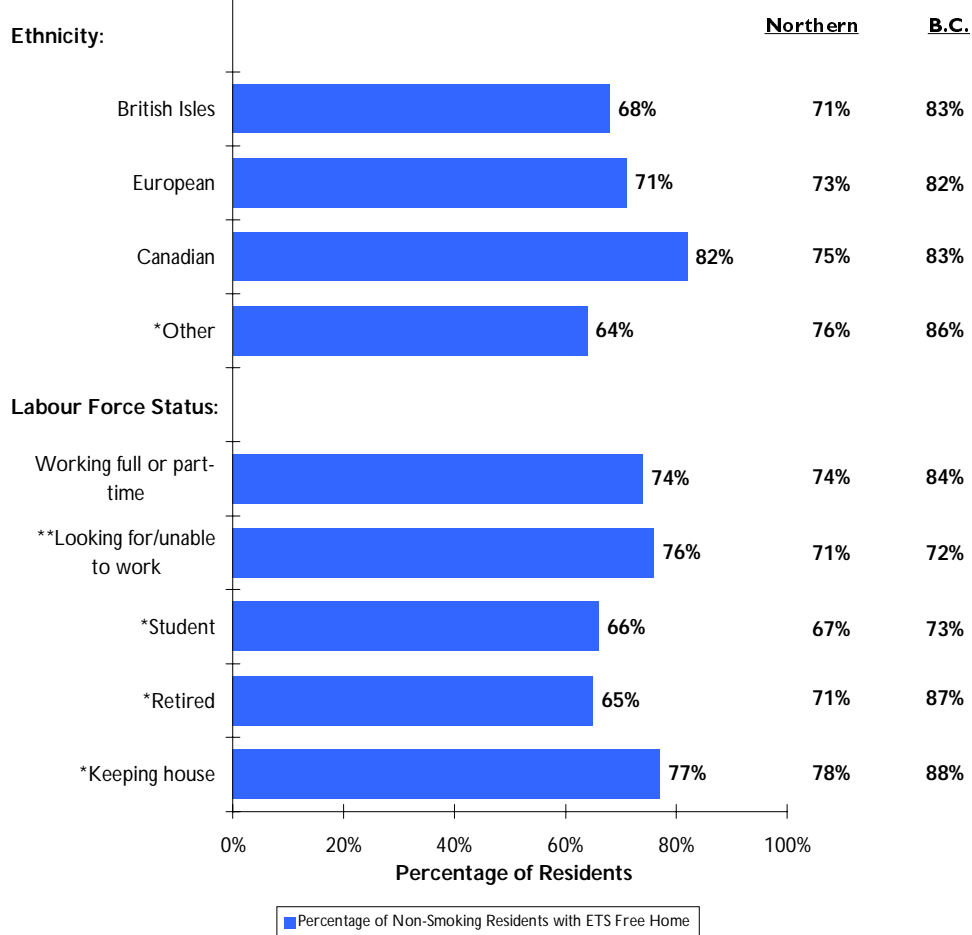
The probability of non-smokers living in an ETS free household appears to be associated with the income adequacy of the household, and their educational achievements. As exhibited in the graph following, just 68% of non-smoking residents with low income adequacy live in households without any ETS exposure at all, but this percentage rises somewhat to 75% among non-smokers with middle income adequacy. A similar difference is apparent between residents with less than a high school education (68%) and those who are university graduates (86%).



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 Northern Interior residents who do not smoke. There appears to be some relationship between ethnic group membership and whether or not non-smokers live in a household with no ETS exposure at all. Residents who simply identified themselves as Canadian are most likely to live in an ETS free home (82%), while those who identified some "other" ethnic background are least likely to live without any ETS in their homes (64%). As for labour force status, non-smokers who are students and those who are retired are the least likely to live in an ETS free household (66% and 65% respectively). Conversely, non-smoking residents who are presently employed (74%) or keeping house (77%) are most likely to live in an ETS free household.

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



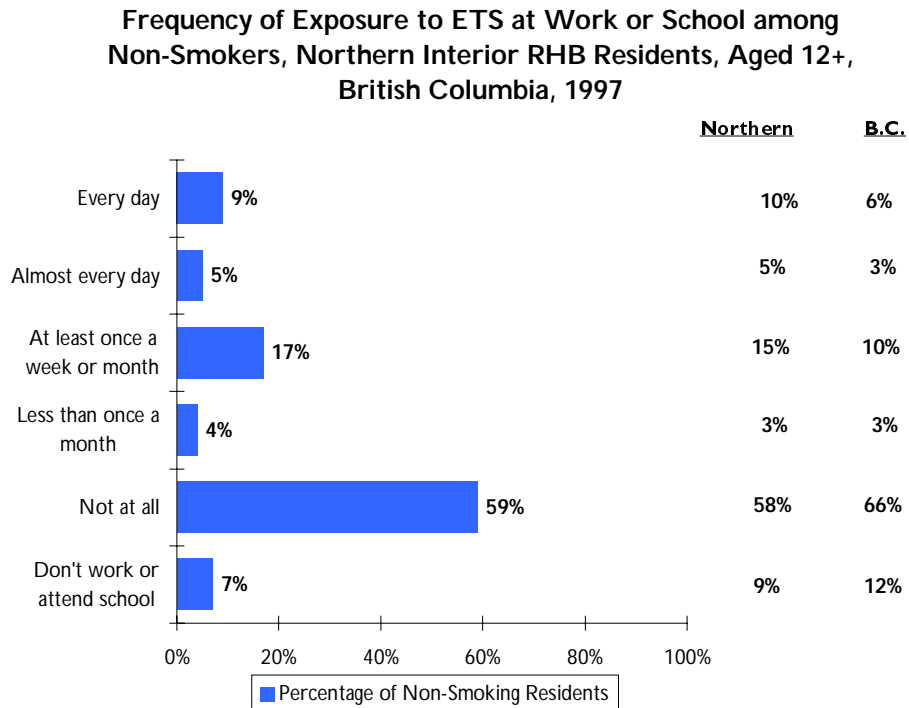
Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes
 *Interpret with caution, subsample base size less than 100
 **Interpret with extreme caution, subsample base size less than 50

8.7.4 Exposure to ETS at Work or School

Non-smokers in the Northern Interior 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, 14% 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 slightly lower than that for the province (66%).



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

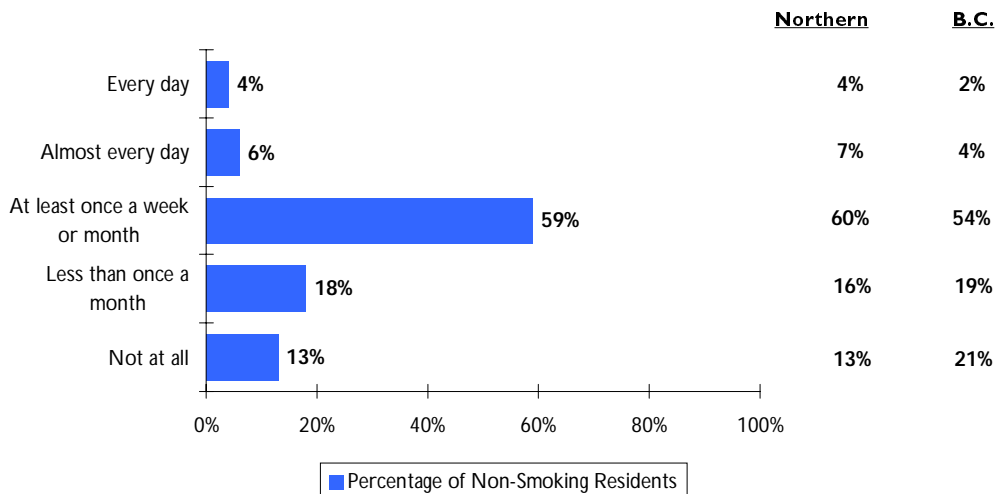
Both female residents, and those who are university graduates, are somewhat more likely to report not being exposed to any ETS while at work or attending school (65% and 76% respectively). Non-smoking residents who are 19 to 24 years of age are more likely than any other age group to be exposed to ETS in the workplace or at school, as only 47% say there is no ETS exposure in these settings. By comparison, country of birth, income adequacy, ethnicity and labour force status appear to be unrelated to whether or not the non-smoking residents of the Northern Interior 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 Northern Interior 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 settings 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 87% of the non-smoking residents in the Northern Interior. Daily or nearly daily exposure in such settings was acknowledged by 10% of non-smoking residents. This percentage appears to be slightly higher than for the province (6%), but about the same as for the North region generally (11%).

Frequency of Exposure to ETS in other Indoor Settings among Non-Smokers, Northern Interior RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997

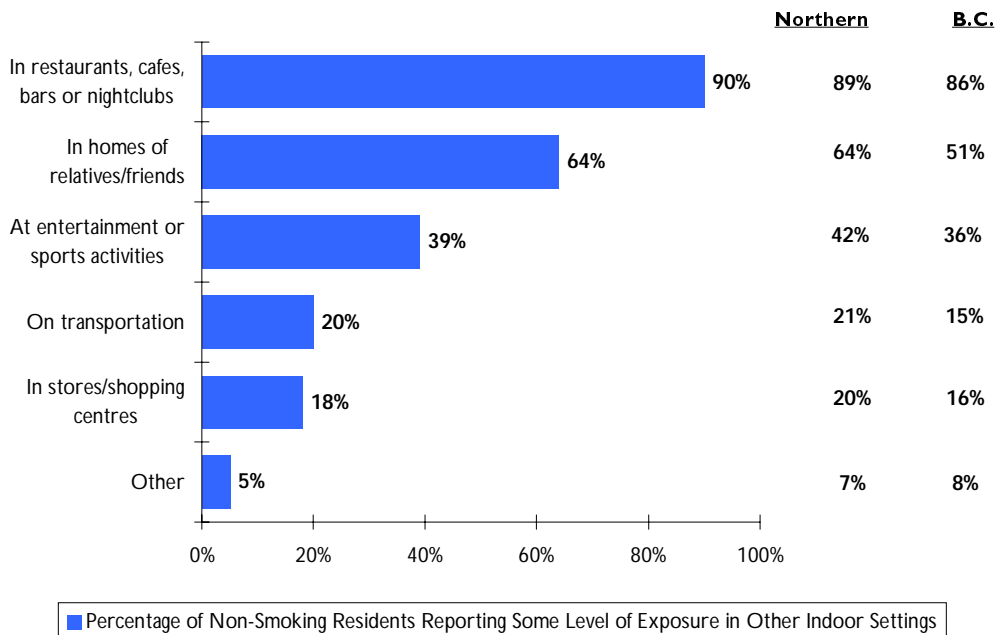


Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.

The 87% of non-smoking residents of the Northern Interior 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 (64%) and restaurants, cafes, bars or nightclubs (90%), than they do for transportation (20%) and stores or shopping centres (18%). 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, Northern Interior RHB 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+).

	Northern Interior Sample	North Region Sample	British Columbia Sample
	%	%	%
Gender			
Male	52	52	49
Female	49	48	51
Age			
12-19	17	17	13
20-24	12	11	9
25-44	36	36	34
45-64	27	27	28
65+	8	9	17
<i>Average</i>	37.8	38.4	42.8
Marital Status			
Single	37	35	35
Married/Common Law	52	53	49
Separated/Divorced	7	8	8
Widowed	4	4	7
Children			
None	66	66	76
One	17	16	12
Two or more	17	18	12
Education			
Less than High School	12	11	6
Some High School	20	22	16
Completed High School	25	26	23
Some or Completed Technical/Community College	19	19	21
Some University	9	7	10
Completed University	10	9	15
Graduate Degree	4	4	8
Income Adequacy			
Low	6	6	5
Lower-Middle	11	11	10
Middle	27	26	26
Upper-Middle	37	37	38
High	18	21	21

	Northern Interior Sample	North Region Sample	British Columbia Sample
	%	%	%
Labour Force Status			
Working full-time	45	44	41
Working part-time	8	9	9
Self-Employed	10	10	9
Looking for work or unable to work	7	8	6
Student	13	11	10
Retired	11	11	20
Keeping house	5	6	4
Place of Birth			
In Canada	87	88	79
Outside Canada	13	12	21
Ethnicity			
British	42	42	47
European	43	44	38
South Asian	2	2	2
South East Asian	2	2	6
Canadian	15	15	13
Aboriginal	8	8	3

Demographically, the Northern Interior differs from British Columbia on the following:

Age - the average of the residents in the Northern Interior is lower than the average for B.C. (37.8 years vs. 42.8 years);

Children - there are more households with children in the Northern Interior than in B.C. as a whole (34% vs. 24%);

Education - the Northern Interior area has more residents with less than high school or just some high school (32% vs. 22%) and fewer residents who have completed university (14% vs. 23%);

Place of Birth - the Northern Interior area has more residents born inside Canada (87% vs. 79%) and fewer born outside Canada (13% vs. 21%); and,

Ethnicity - the Northern Interior have fewer residents with a South East Asian background (2% vs. 6%) and more with a European background (43% vs. 38%).