

## **8. North Okanagan RHB Report**

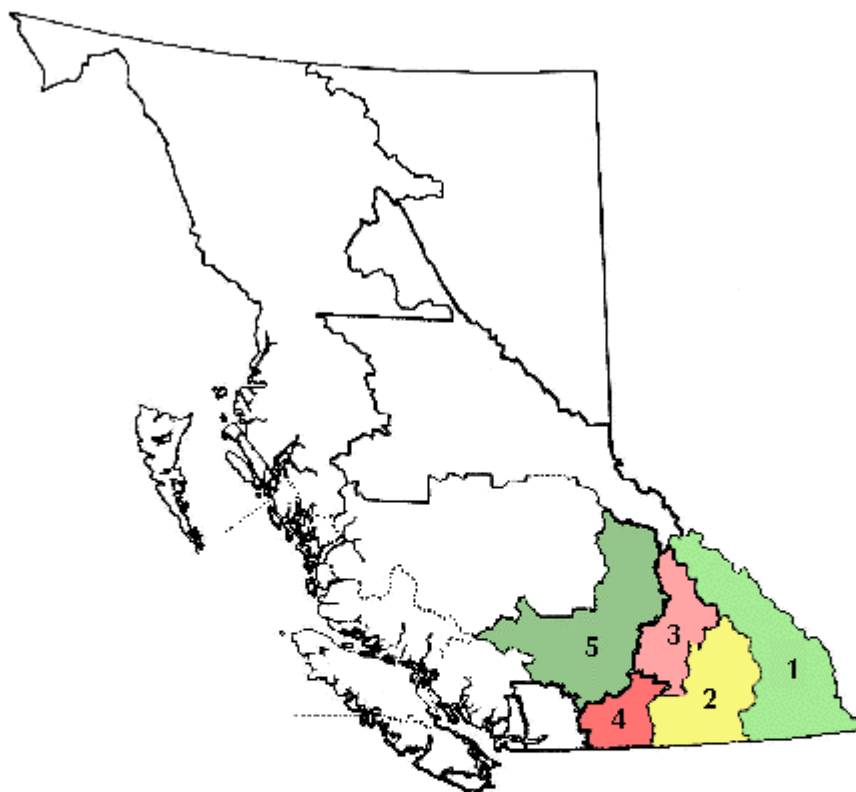
### **8.1 Introduction**

The results presented in this report are based on approximately 1,000 interviews with B.C. residents living within the North Okanagan 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 North Okanagan have been compared with results for the province overall and a macro region called the Southern Interior which includes East Kootenay, North Okanagan, South Okanagan Similkameen, Thompson and West Kootenay-Boundary.

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- Southern Interior Region**
- 1. East Kootenay
  - 2. Central Kootenay
  - 3. North Okanagan
  - 4. Okanagan Similkameen
  - 5. Thompson

Prepared by: Planning and Evaluation Division, Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors  
Boundary Source: BC STATS, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations 21 MAY 1997

## 8.2 Summary

**Tobacco Use** - Current cigarette smokers in the North Okanagan area make up 21% of residents while former smokers represent 33% and never smokers 47%. The vast majority of current smokers (82%) are daily smokers. The use of other forms of tobacco such as cigars, pipes and smokeless tobacco is very low at 1%. In looking at overall tobacco use, 23% of North Okanagan residents are current users, 33% are former users, 25% are lifetime abstainers and 20% are past experimenters or beginners. The average age of initiation for current and former cigarette smokers is similar (15.6 and 16.5). The average age of initiation is higher for ever users (current and former) of other forms of tobacco – cigars (22.9), pipes (24.2) and smokeless tobacco (20.6).

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

**ETS** - Almost two-thirds of non-smokers and 38% smokers report physical irritation to their eyes, breathing or throat due to ETS. Amongst non-smokers, 8% report every day or almost every day ETS exposure at home, 8% at work or school and 7% in other indoor settings. This results in 19% of North Okanagan non-smoking residents who are exposed to ETS every day or almost every day or the equivalent of 15% of all North Okanagan residents. In total, 38% of North Okanagan residents' health is being adversely affected by tobacco (23% through current tobacco use and 15% through ETS).

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

Detailed information concerning past and present use of all forms of tobacco, by the residents of North Okanagan (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**

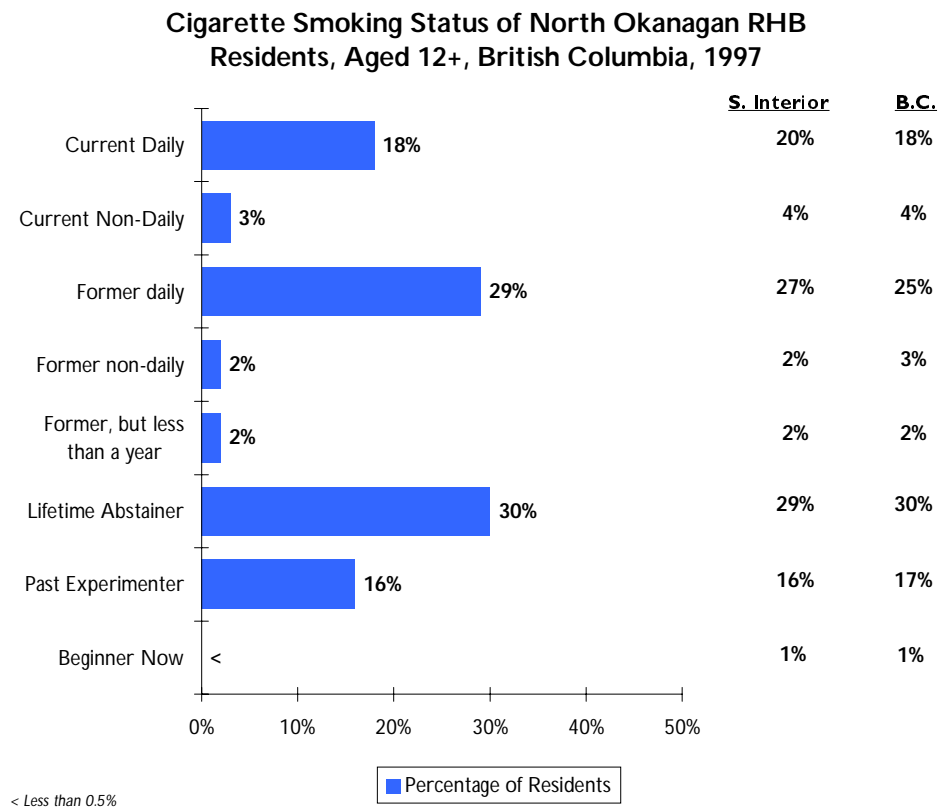
For cigarette smoking, eight user groups are identified: current daily; current non-daily; former daily; former non-daily; former, but less than a year; lifetime abstainer; past experimenter; and beginner (See graph on next page).

The current prevalence of cigarette smoking among all residents of North Okanagan (aged 12+), is 21%. Daily users predominate among current cigarette smokers at 18%, while non-daily smokers represent 3% of all residents. As shown in the graph, this prevalence rate is fairly similar to that found in the Southern Interior region (24%) and the entire province (22%).

Former cigarette smokers comprise 33% of all North Okanagan residents. This percentage includes former daily smokers (29%), 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 Southern Interior region and the entire province. However, the proportion of former daily smokers for the North Okanagan is slightly greater than for all of B.C. (29% vs. 25%).

By contrast, North Okanagan RHB residents who have never smoked cigarettes represent 47% of the population aged 12+ years. These never users include lifetime abstainers (30%) and past experimenters (16%). A comparison with these same percentages for the Southern Interior region and for the entire province suggests a nearly identical pattern.

In sum, current cigarette smokers make up 21% of residents in the North Okanagan, while former smokers represent 33% and never smokers 47%. Overall, these proportions are similar to those found for the Southern Interior region and the province.



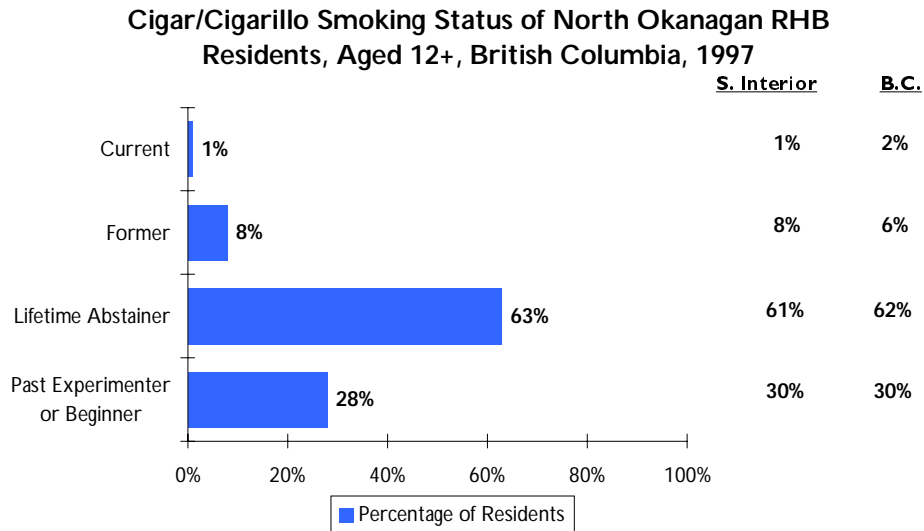
### **8.3.2 Alternate Tobacco Use Status**

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

For cigar smoking among residents of the North Okanagan, 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 Okanagan 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 Southern Interior region and provincially, at 1% and 2% respectively.

The graph also shows that former cigar smokers in the North Okanagan represent 8% of residents, while those who have never smoked cigars make up 91% of the residential population. This never user group includes lifetime abstainers (63%) and past experimenters or beginners (28%). These percentages are also in line with those found for the Southern Interior region and for the whole province.



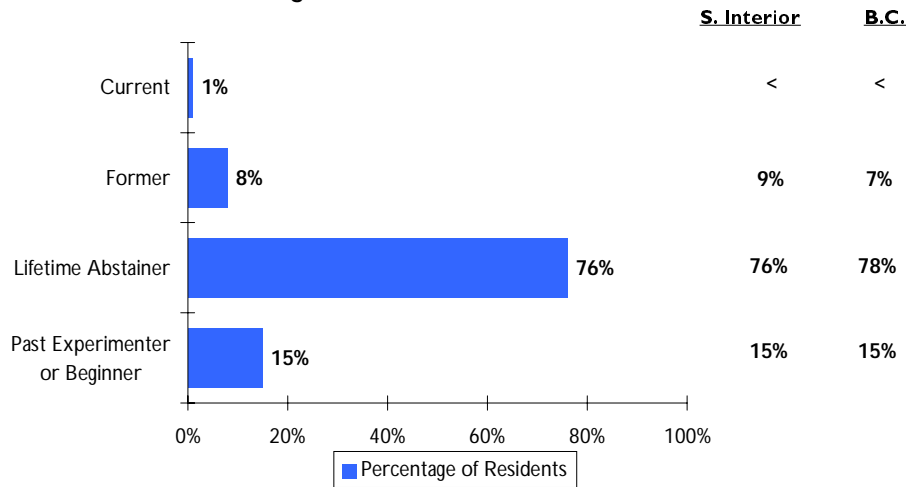
### Pipe Smoking Status

For the smoking of pipe tobacco among North Okanagan 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 Okanagan residents is 1%. Like cigar smoking, there are insufficient numbers of pipe smokers in the North Okanagan 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 Southern Interior region and provincially.

The graph also indicates that former pipe smokers in the North Okanagan represent 8% of all residents, while those who have never smoked pipe tobacco make up fully 91% of the residential population. This never user group includes lifetime abstainers (76%) and a smaller group of past experimenters or beginners (15%). These percentages are also in keeping with those found for the Southern Interior region and for the whole province.

**Pipe Smoking Status of North Okanagan RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997**



< Less than 0.5%

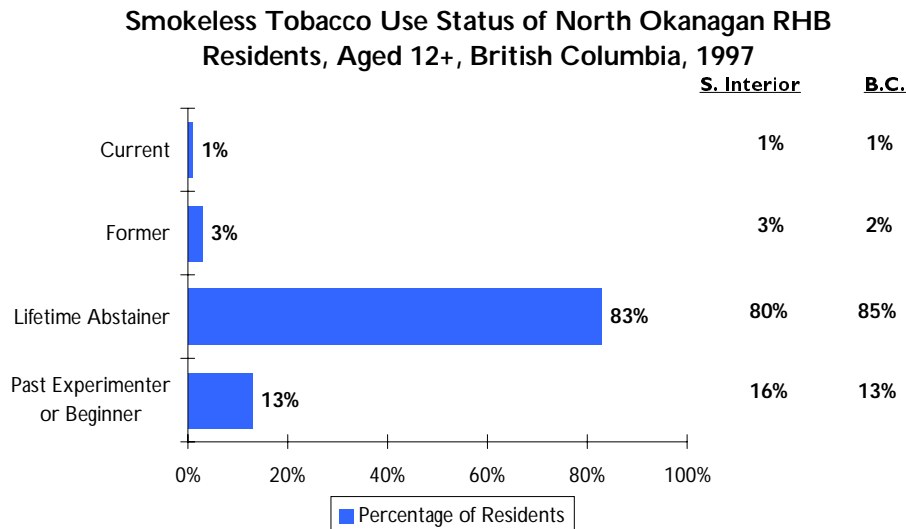
### Smokeless Tobacco Use Status

Smokeless tobacco use (i.e., snuff, pinch and chewing tobacco) among North Okanagan 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 North Okanagan 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 Southern Interior region and the entire province.

Former users of smokeless tobacco products represent only 3% of all North Okanagan residents, while residents who have never used smokeless tobacco represent fully 96% of the population aged 12+ years. As shown in the graph, this never user group includes lifetime abstainers (83%) and past experimenters or beginners (13%). These

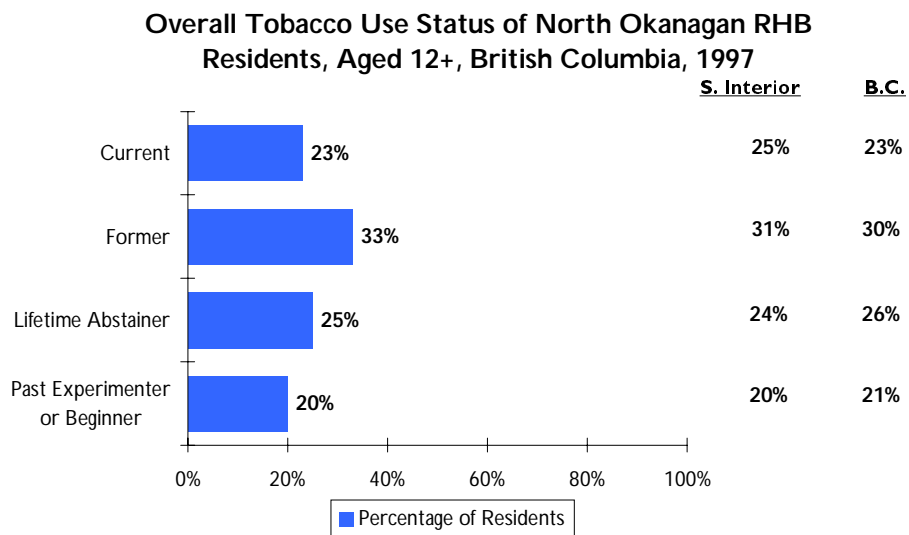
percentages are also very similar to the findings for the Southern Interior region and the province as a whole.



### 8.3.3 Overall Tobacco Use Status

The current prevalence of any form of tobacco use among North Okanagan 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 Okanagan.

Non-use is presently the norm among residents of the North Okanagan, with 77% of the aged 12+ population indicating they do not currently use any form of tobacco. On the other hand, the survey does show that 23% of residents are currently using at least one form of tobacco. Former tobacco users represent 33% of the North Okanagan population, while never users include past experimenters or beginners at 20% and lifetime abstainers at 25%. As shown in the graph, these findings are very similar to that found elsewhere in province.



## 8.4 Social Demographics of Tobacco Use

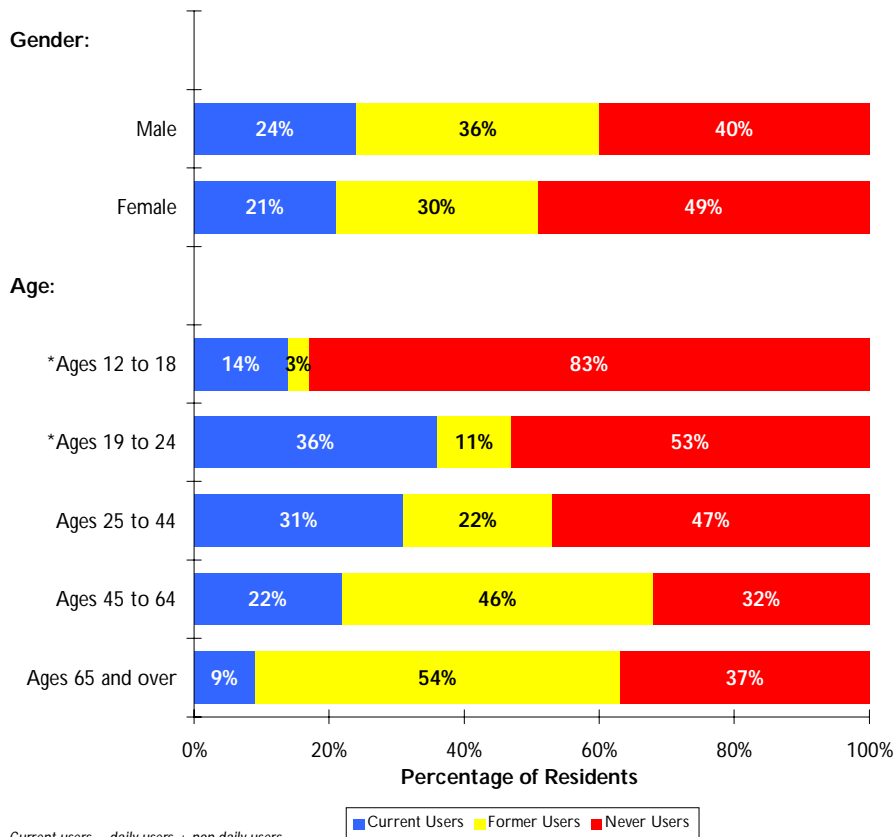
In this section, use of any form of tobacco (i.e., current, former vs. never) has been cross tabulated against a range of social demographic characteristics of residents, in order to demonstrate a number of social and economic variations in tobacco usage. As already outlined in *Overall Tobacco Use Status*, 23% of all North Okanagan residents are current tobacco users, 33% 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 more likely than female residents to be former tobacco users (36% vs. 30%). On the other hand, female residents are more likely than male residents to have never been a tobacco user (49% vs. 40%).

In terms of age, current tobacco use is highest among 19 to 24 year olds (36%) and 25 to 44 year olds (31%), and lowest among those aged 65 and over (9%) and those aged 12 to 18 (14%). Being a former user of tobacco rises steadily with age, from 3% among 12 to 18 year olds to 54% among residents aged 65 and over. On the other hand, the proportion of residents who have never used tobacco drops dramatically from 83% of 12 to 18 years olds to 53% of those aged 19 to 24 years and to just 32% of those aged 45 to 64.

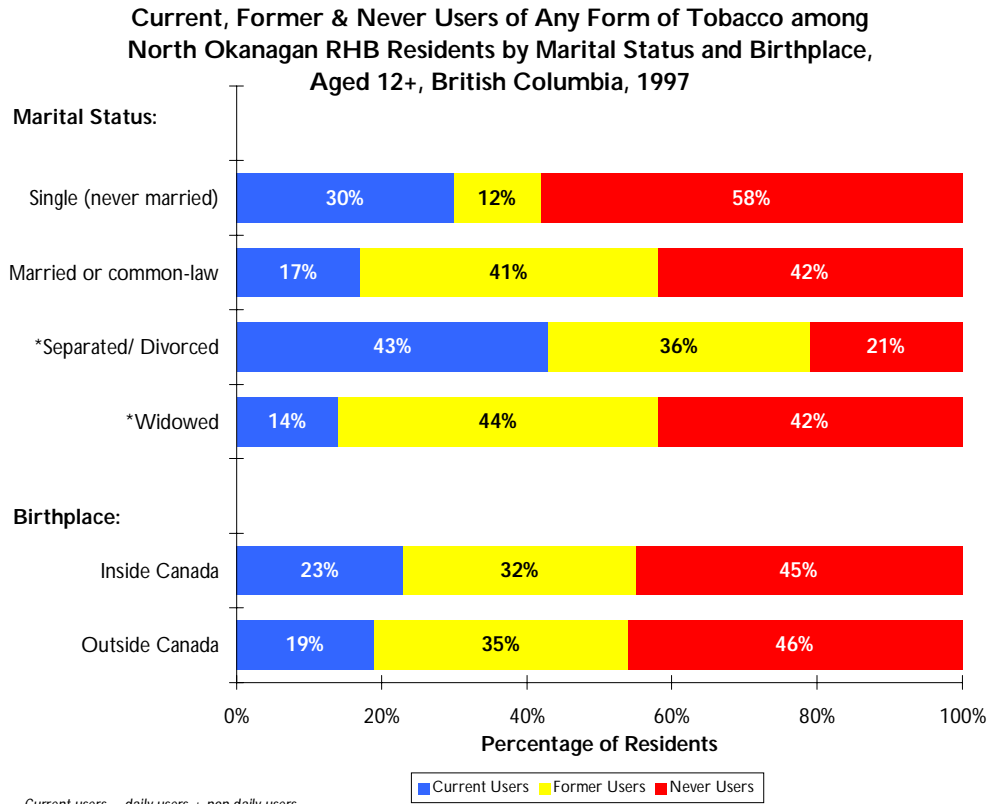
**Current, Former & Never Users of Any Form of Tobacco among North Okanagan RHB Residents by Gender and Age, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997**



### 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 Okanagan are born inside or outside of Canada does not appear to be strongly related to their lifetime experience with tobacco. However, differences in rates of tobacco use are 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 (43%), while the proportion of former users is highest among those who are widowed (44%) or presently married or

living common law (41%). Finally, those residents who have never married (i.e., single) are most likely (58%) to have never used tobacco.

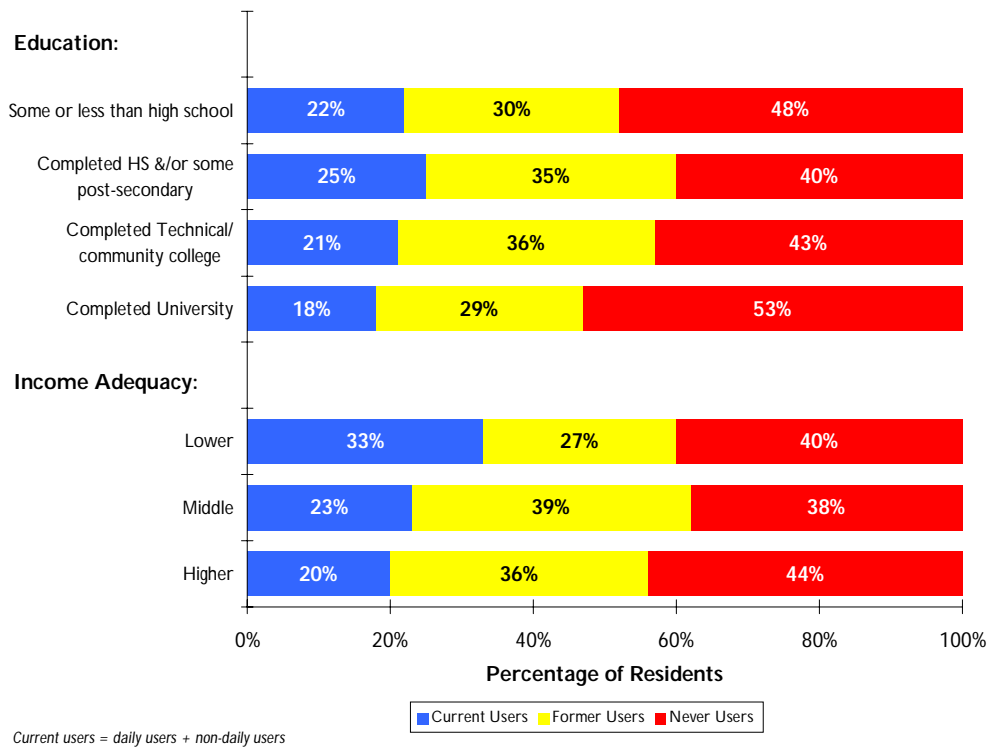


### 8.4.3 Income Adequacy and Education

The graph below shows the relationship between tobacco use and income adequacy for the household, as well as the educational achievements of residents. A higher proportion of current users is evident among residents with lower income adequacy (33%), and conversely the lowest proportion of current users is found for residents who are university graduates (18%).

Furthermore, the proportion of residents who have never used any form of tobacco is higher among university graduates (53%), than among technical/ community college graduates (43%) and high school graduates (40%).

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

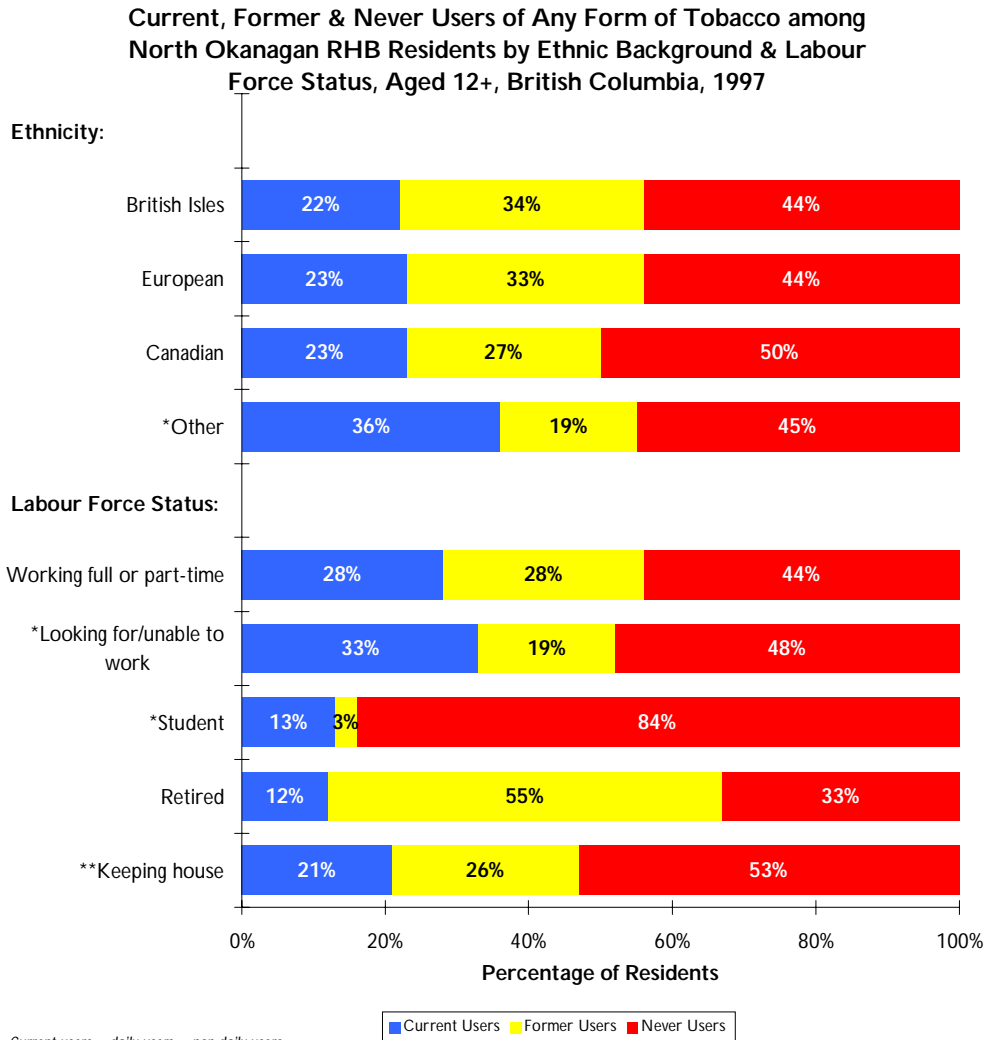


### 8.4.4 Ethnicity and Labour Force Status

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. Variations in tobacco use according to ethnic/cultural grouping are relatively minor. However, current use is generally higher among residents who identified “other” ethnic groups (36%).

Variations in tobacco use according to labour force status are more apparent from the graph. For example, among North Okanagan residents who are either looking for work or who are unable to work the proportion of current users is 33%. The proportion of current users among those working full or part-time is slightly lower at 28%. Current use of any form of tobacco by students and retired residents is very low (13% and 12%

respectively), but these proportions are largely attributable to the age of these residents, rather than their labour force status.



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

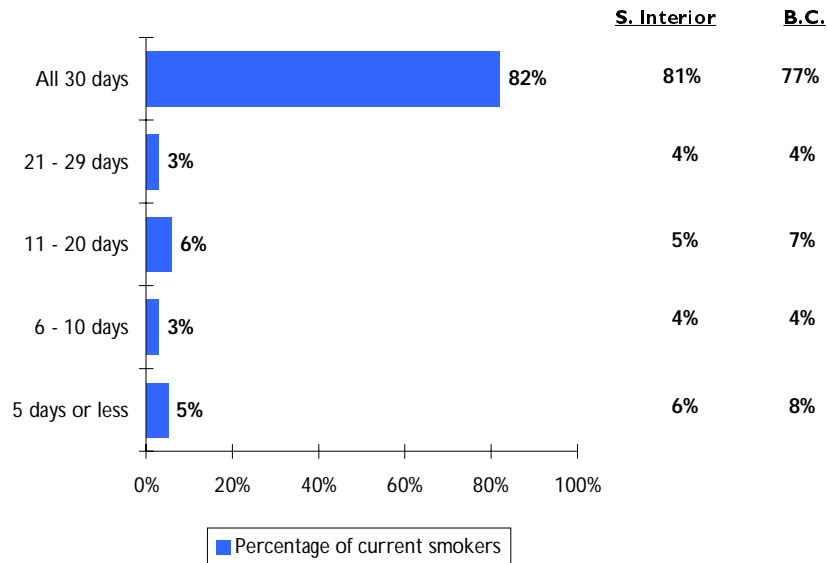
## **8.5 Frequency of Cigarette Smoking among Current Users**

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.

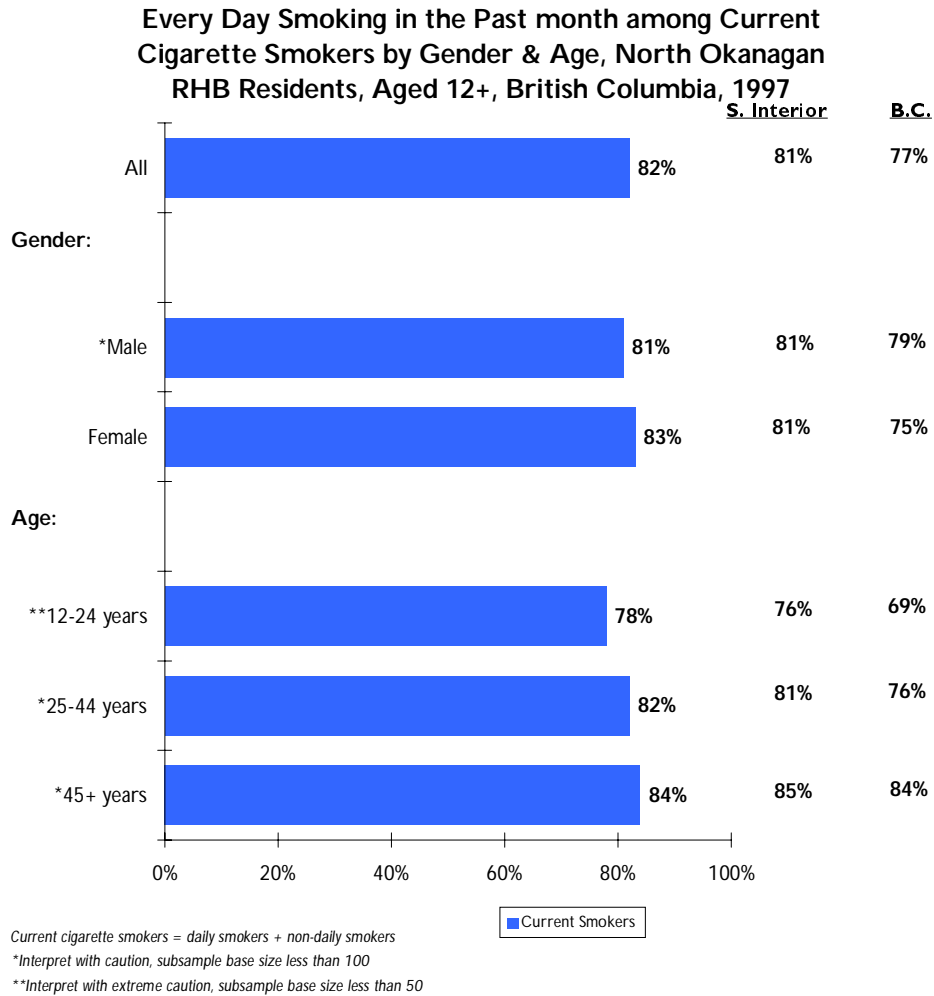
### **8.5.1 Days Smoked in Past Month**

The number of days in the past month in which current cigarette smokers in the North Okanagan 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 5% of smokers, while smoking on all 30 days during the past month was reported by fully 82% of current cigarette smokers. This rate for every day smoking is slightly higher than that found across the province (77%), but about the same as in the Southern Interior region (81%).

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



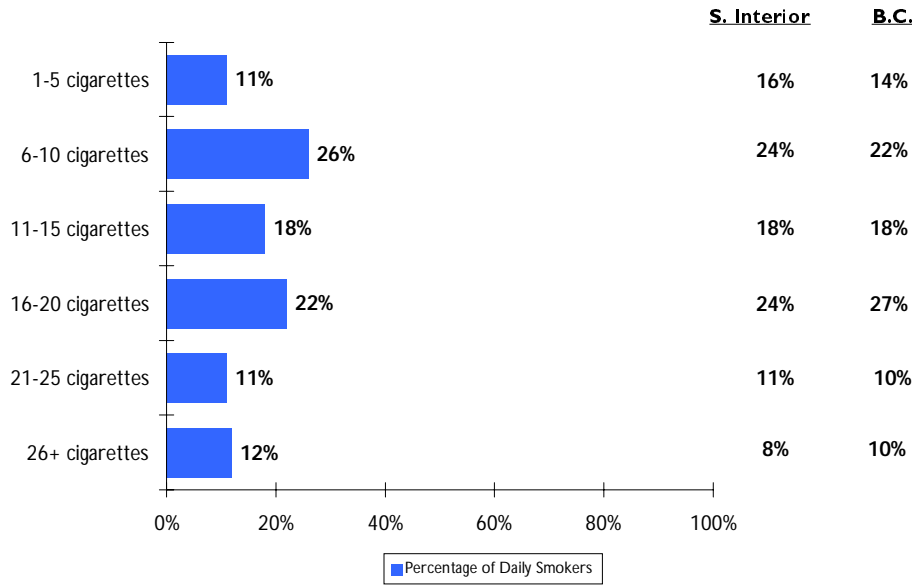
As shown in the following graph, males and females are almost equally likely (81% and 83% respectively) to report smoking on all 30 days in the past month (i.e., are daily smokers). Smoking on all 30 days during the past month is lowest among 12 to 24 year old cigarette smokers (78%) and then rises with each aging grouping to a high of 84% for ages 45 +. These differences in percentages are generally consistent with those reported by cigarette smokers in the Southern Interior region and in the province. It does, however, seem noteworthy that every day smoking by those aged 12-24 in the North Okanagan is higher than in the province (78% vs. 69%).



### 8.5.2 Cigarettes per Day by Daily Smokers

Among daily cigarette smokers in the North Okanagan only 11% report averaging 5 or fewer cigarettes per day, but as can be seen in the graph below, 23% report averaging more than 20 cigarettes per day. The average number cigarettes smoked per day by daily cigarette smokers in the North Okanagan is 16.8. This average number is nearly identical to the average for daily cigarette smokers in the entire province (16.6 per day), but slightly higher than that for the Southern Interior (15.9 per day).

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



Averages: RHB=16.8; Region = 15.9; B.C. = 16.6

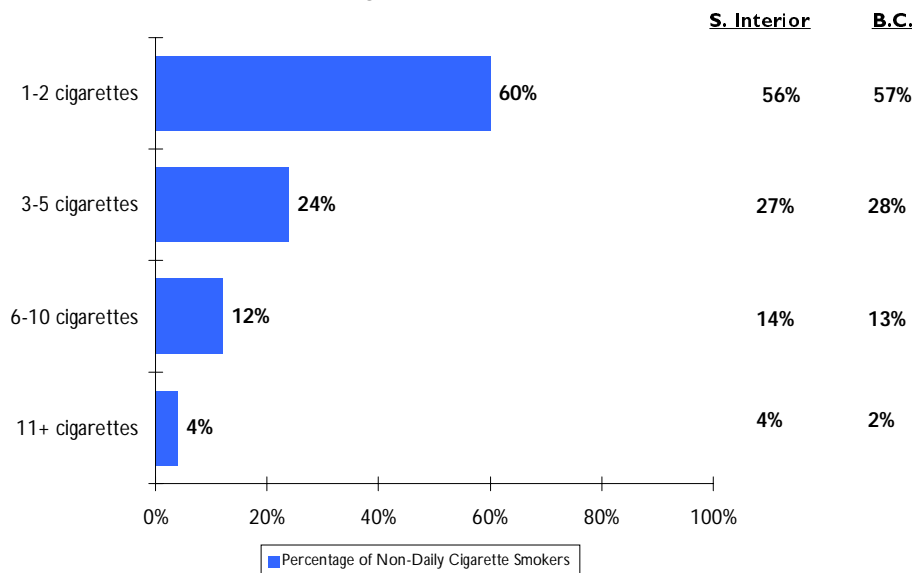
As shown in the table below, on average males smoke more per day than females (18.6 vs. 15.0). Additionally, the average number of cigarettes per day is highest in the 45 + year age grouping (18.3), and lowest in the 12 to 24 age group (12.9). Both these gender and age differences are apparent for the Southern Interior region and for the province as a whole.

Average Number of Cigarettes per Day Among Daily Cigarette Smokers by Gender & Age, North Okanagan RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997			
	North Okanagan RHB	S. Interior	B.C.
All	16.8	15.9	16.6
<b>Gender:</b>			
Male	18.6	17.3	18.2
Female	15.0	14.5	15.0
<b>Age:</b>			
12-24 years	12.9	11.5	12.2
25-44 years	17.0	17.2	16.8
45 + years	18.3	17.4	18.7

### 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 Okanagan (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 60% of these smokers report having only 1 to 2 per day, 24% report having 3 to 5 per day, and just 4% 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 3.9. These percentages are consistent with those of other non-daily cigarette smokers in the Southern Interior region and the province (see graph).

**Average Number of Cigarettes per Day on Smoking Days among Non-Daily Cigarette Smokers‡, North Okanagan RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997\*\***



**Averages: RHB=3.9; Region=4.0; B.C.=3.5**

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

## 8.6 Age of Initiation for Tobacco Use

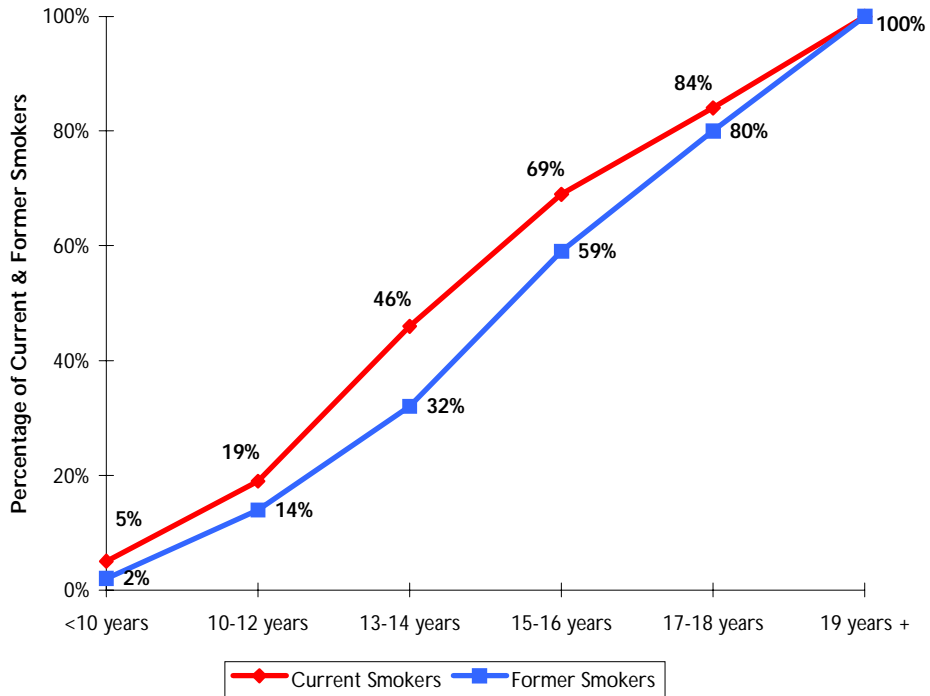
Both former and current users of tobacco identified by the survey were asked their age when they first started using various tobacco products. In the case of cigarettes, they were asked either their age when they smoked their first whole cigarette (if aged 12 to 19 years), or alternatively, their age 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 North Okanagan is displayed in the graph for both current and former cigarette smokers. The pattern of responses for former and current smokers is similar with the exception of the percentage starting to smoke before age 15, where more current smokers are more likely to have started than former smokers (46% vs. 32%). To elaborate, among **current** cigarette smokers, 19% began smoking before the age of 13, 46% began smoking before age 15 and 84% began smoking before age 19. The average age of initiation for those North Okanagan residents who currently smoke cigarettes is 15.6 years. This pattern of responses is similar among **former** cigarette smokers, with 14% indicating they began smoking before the age of 13, 32% began before age 15 and 80% began before age 19. The average age of initiation among former cigarette smokers is 16.5 years.

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

- Age when smoked first cigarette or started smoking cigarettes -

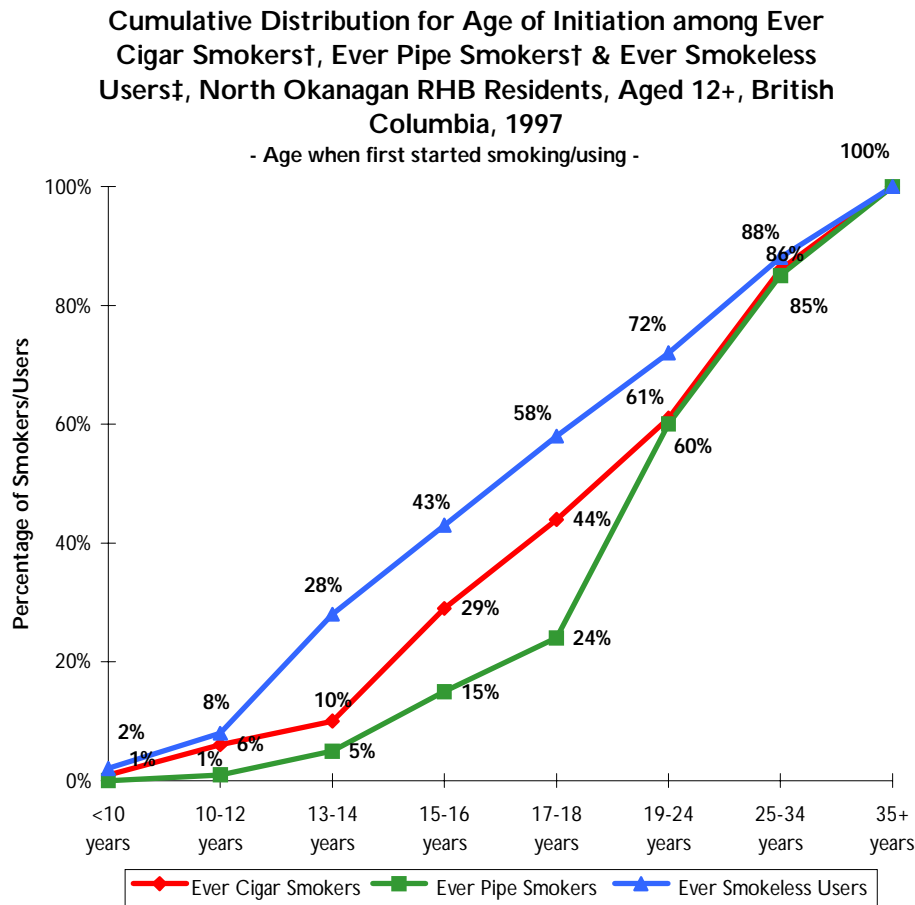


As shown in the table below, these average ages for the onset of cigarette smoking are nearly identical to those observed in the Southern Interior region and in the entire province.

Average Age of Initiation among Current & Former Cigarette Smokers, North Okanagan RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997			
	North Okanagan RHB	S. Interior	B.C.
	Years	Years	Years
Current	15.6	15.6	15.7
Former	16.5	16.2	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 Okanagan 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  
 ‡Interpret with extreme caution, total base size less than 50

Among those North Okanagan residents who have ever smoked cigars, just 6% began smoking cigars before age 13, 44% began before age 19, 61% began before age 25, and 86% began before age 35. Compared to cigarette smoking, the average age of onset for cigar smoking is somewhat older at 22.9 years and is very similar to the averages found

for cigar smoking in the Southern Interior region (22.6 years) and the province (22.8 years).

For North Okanagan residents who have ever smoked pipe tobacco, just 1% began smoking before age 13, 24% began before age 19, 60% began before age 25, and 85% began before age 35. The average age of onset for pipe smoking is even older than that for cigars at 24.2 years. Yet, this is very close to the average ages found for pipe smokers in the Southern Interior region (25.1 years) and the province (24.6 years).

Among those residents of the North Okanagan who have ever used smokeless tobacco, 8% began before age 13, 58% began before age 19, 72% 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 and cigars, at 20.6 years. This average age for the onset of smokeless tobacco use is also slightly lower than the averages for the Southern Interior region (21.7 years) and for the entire province (21.8 years).

Average Age of Initiation among Ever Cigar Smokers†, Ever Pipe Smokers† & Ever Smokeless Users‡, North Okanagan RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997			
	North Okanagan RHB	S. Interior	B.C.
	Years	Years	Years
Ever Cigar Smoker	22.9	22.6	22.8
Ever Pipe Smoker	24.2	25.1	24.6
Ever Smokeless User	20.6	21.7	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**

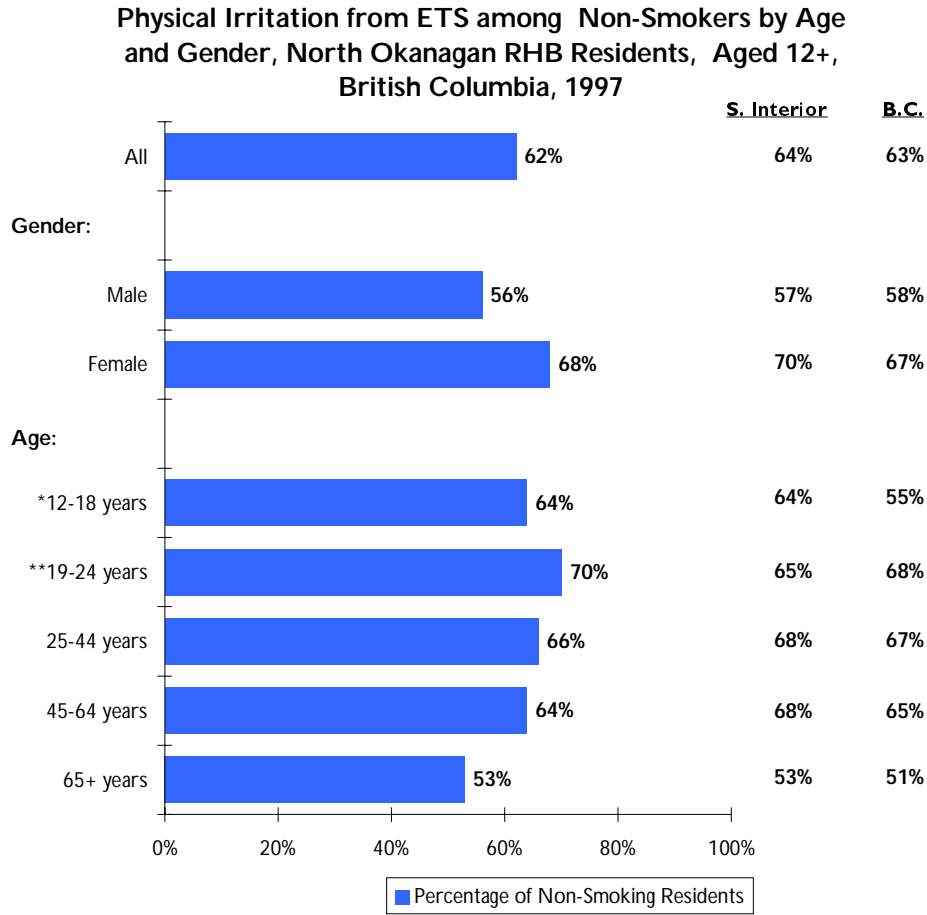
In addition to inquiring directly about tobacco use, the survey also asked residents of the North Okanagan about their exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), sometimes known as secondhand smoke, in their own homes, at work and school and in other public places. Being exposed to ETS was defined 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 (62%) of non-smokers (i.e., those North Okanagan residents who do not currently use cigarettes, cigars or a pipe) report they are usually physically irritated by ETS. Interestingly, even 38% of current smokers report physical irritation.

Some gender differences in the proportion of non-smokers are evident with 56% of males versus 68% of females indicating they are usually irritated by ETS. Age related differences are not as evident, with only non-smokers aged 65+ being noticeably less likely to be irritated by ETS (at 53%) than non-smokers in the other age groups. As displayed in the graph, this general pattern of findings is also reflected in the survey data for the Southern Interior region and the province with the exception of the proportion of non-smokers aged 12 to 18, where the percentages for the North Okanagan (64%) and Southern Interior region (64%) are higher than that for the province (55%).

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, education, ethnicity, and labour force status.

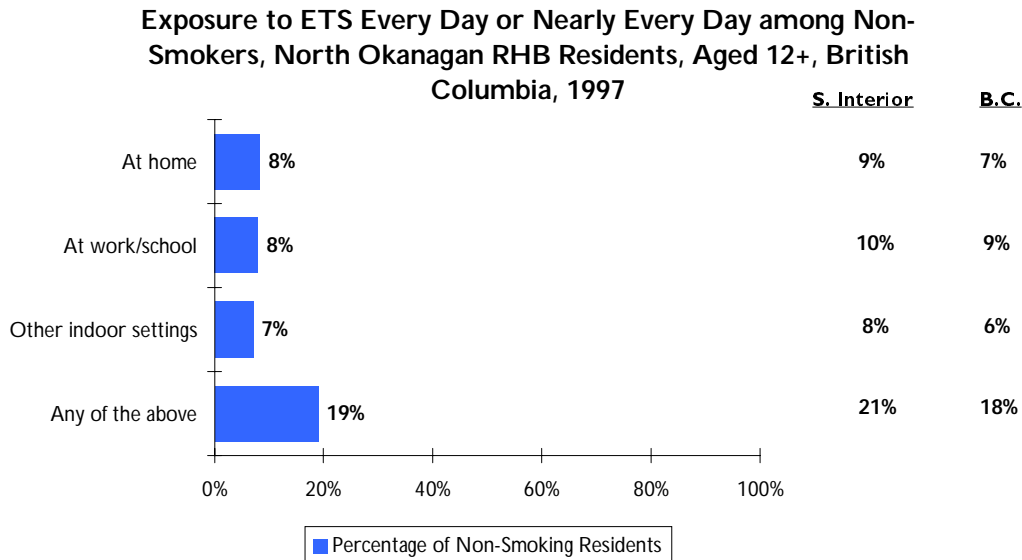


*Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.  
 \*Interpret with caution, subsample base size less than 100  
 \*\*Interpret with extreme caution, subsample base size less than 50*

### 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 Okanagan. 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 19% 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 similar to that observed for the Southern Interior region (21%) and for the province as a whole (18%). It seems especially noteworthy that the 19% of non-smoking residents, who are exposed to ETS daily or nearly daily, translates into 15% of all North Okanagan residents.

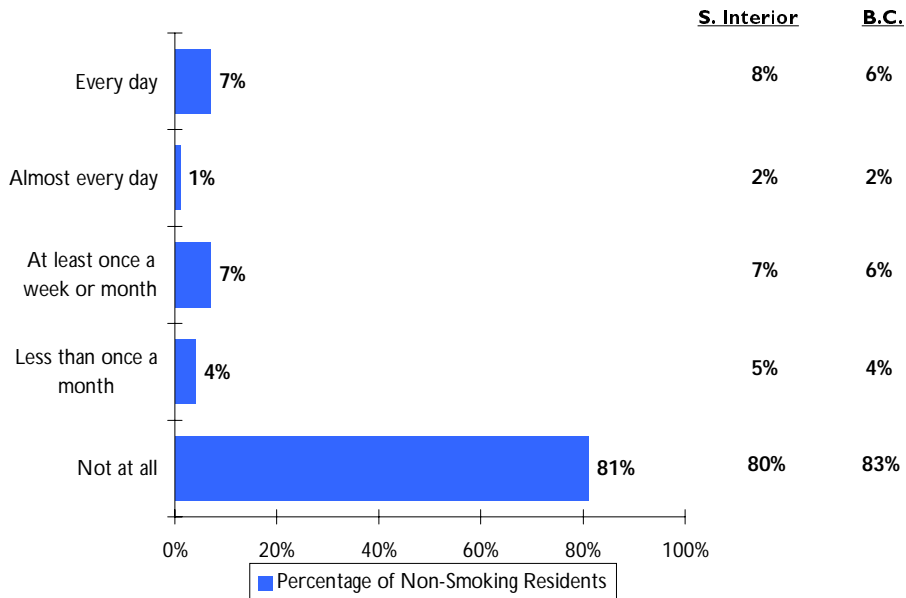


*Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes*

### 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, 8% of non-smokers in the North Okanagan report being exposed to ETS inside their home on a daily or nearly daily basis. On the other hand, 81% report no exposure to ETS at all in their homes. Non-smokers in the North Okanagan have very similar ETS exposure levels as their counterparts in the Southern Interior region and the whole province.

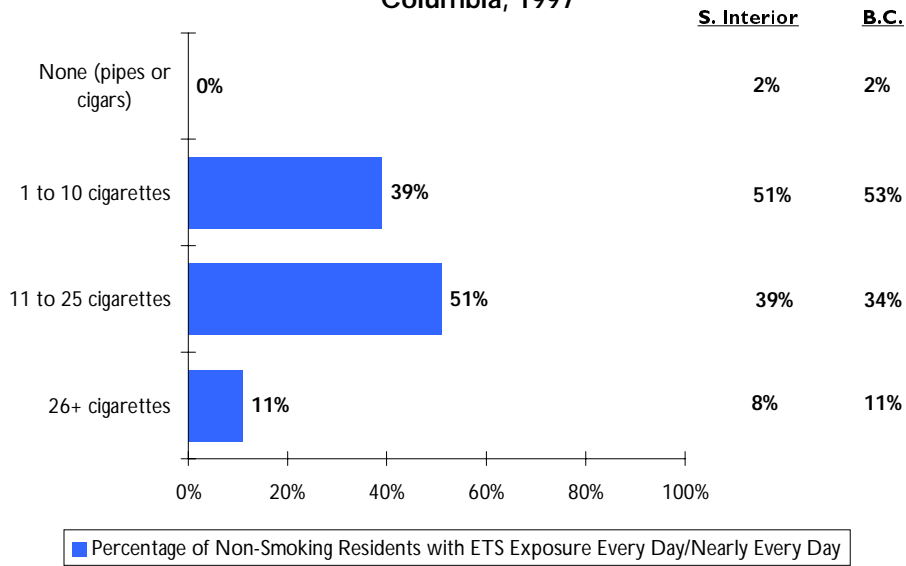
**Frequency of Exposure to ETS at Home among Non-Smokers, North Okanagan RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997**



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

North Okanagan 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. Thirty-nine percent of these residents indicated they are exposed to smoke from 1 to 10 cigarettes per day and 51% 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 as shown in the graph to follow, this average is slightly higher than for other non-smokers in the Southern Interior region (14.0) and the province (14.3).

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

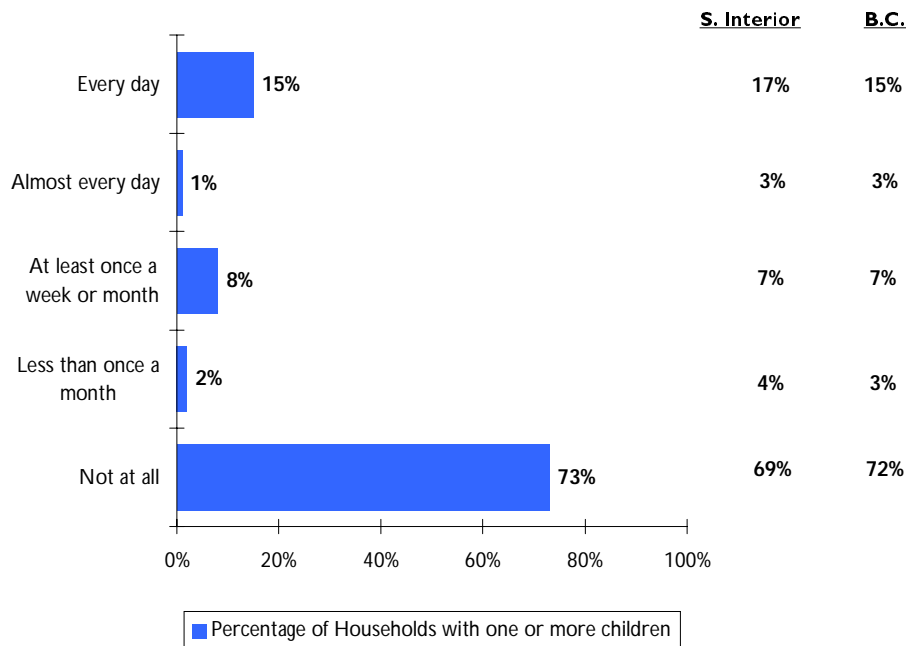


**Average: North Okanagan RHB = 16.6; Region = 14.0; B.C. = 14.3**

*†Interpret with caution, total base size less than 100*

Households with Children: ETS exposure in North Okanagan households with children age 11 and under are highlighted in the graph below. In 16% of these households there is daily or nearly daily exposure to ETS, and in 73% there is no ETS exposure at all. These percentages are similar with those found for households with children in the Southern Interior region (20% - daily/nearly daily, 69% - not at all) and in the whole province (18% - daily/nearly daily, 72% - not at all).

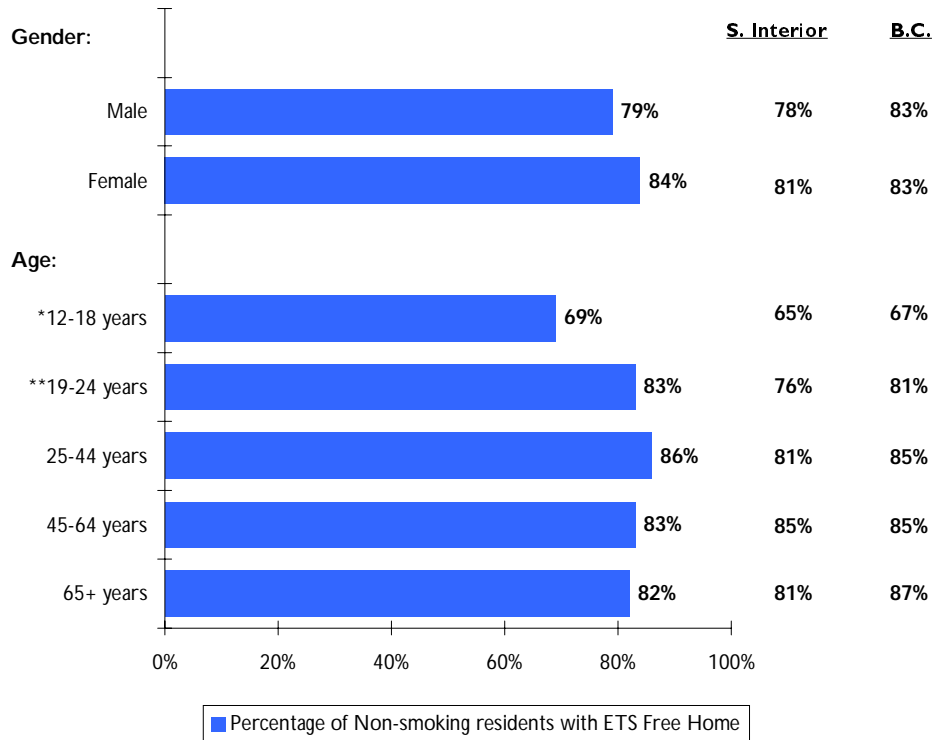
**Frequency of Exposure to ETS in Homes with Children Aged 11 Years and Under, North Okanagan RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997**



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 19.4. Considering the small sample size, this average is marginally higher than that found for such households in the Southern Interior region (18.1) and the province (18.2).

ETS Free Households Non-smoking residents of the North Okanagan who live in households with no ETS exposure at all are only slightly more likely to be female than male (84% vs. 79%), but as shown in the graph, this probability tends to vary more depending on the age of the resident. For instance, just 69% of 12 to 18 year old non-smoking residents live in households with no ETS exposure at all, but this percentage rises to about 84% among all non-smokers over the age of 19 years.

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



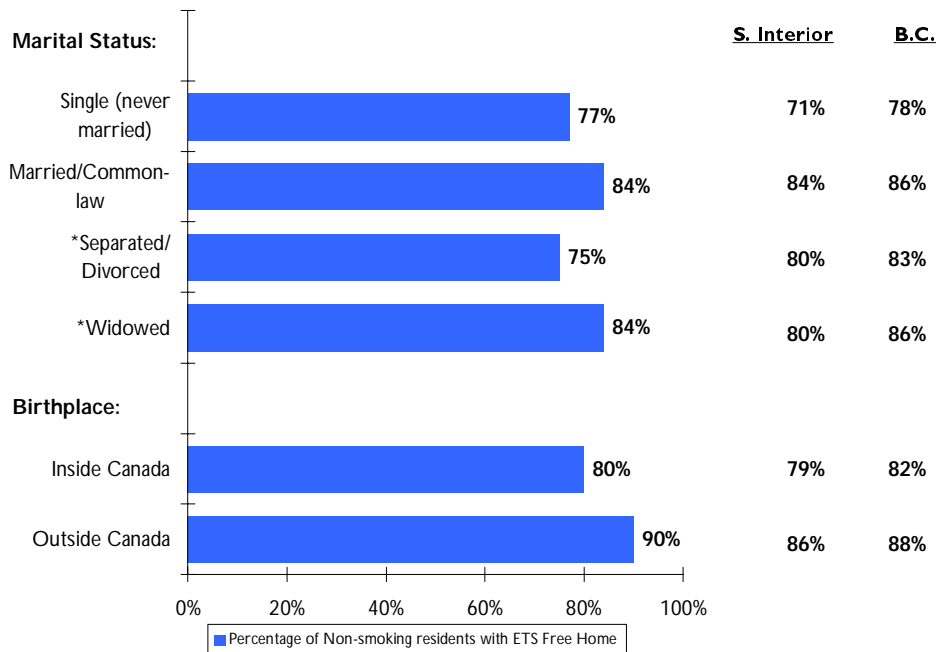
Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.

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

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

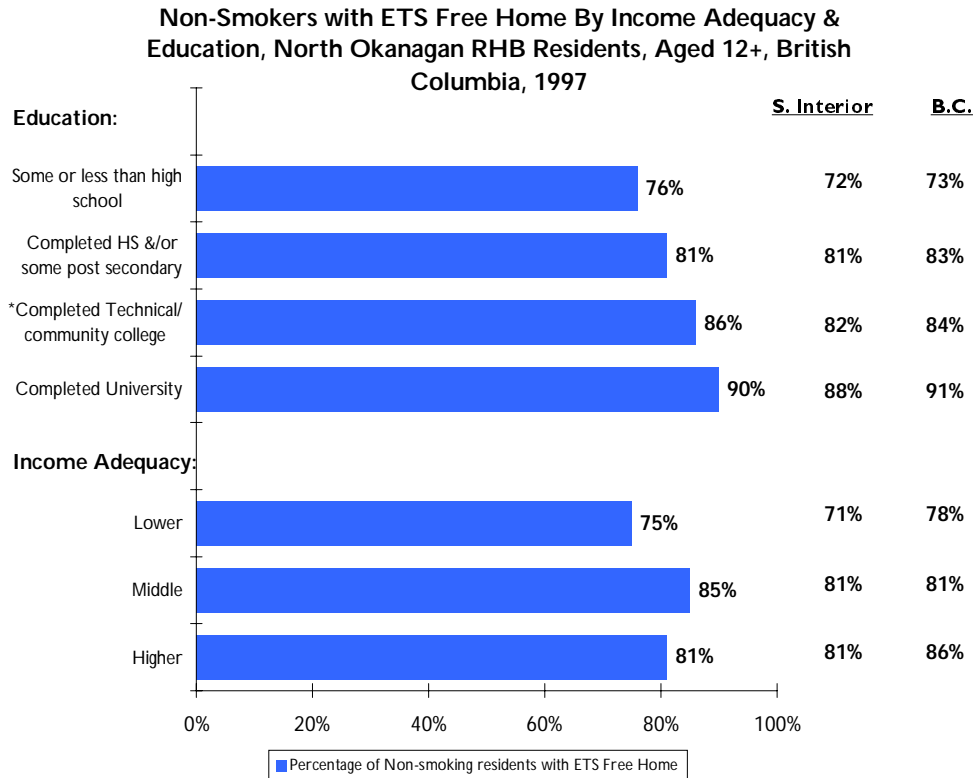
Non-smokers living in a household with no ETS exposure at all are more likely among North Okanagan residents who were born outside of Canada, in comparison to those born in Canada (90% vs. 80%). Similarly, as shown in the following graph, single or separated/divorced non-smoking residents are least likely to live in household with no ETS exposure at all (77% and 75% respectively), compared to non-smokers who are either married or widowed (84% each).

**Non-Smokers with ETS Free Home by Marital Status & Birthplace,  
North Okanagan 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

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 75% of non-smoking residents with lower income adequacy live in households without any ETS exposure at all, but this percentage rises to 85% among non-smokers with middle income adequacy. A similar difference is apparent by education. Residents with less than a high school education are the least likely to have an ETS free home at 76% while those who are university graduates are most likely (90%).

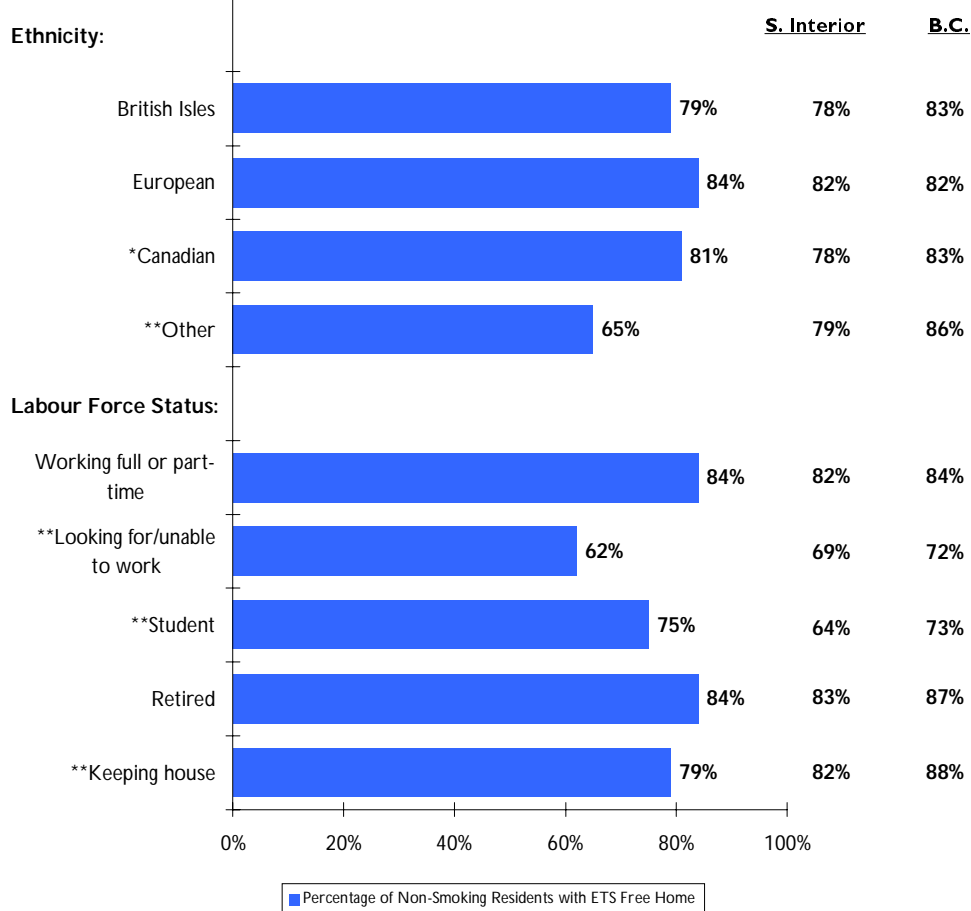


Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes

\*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 Okanagan residents who do not smoke. For the most part, ethnic group membership appears to be somewhat related to whether or not North Okanagan residents who do not smoke live in a household with no ETS exposure at all. Residents who identified some “other” ethnic group are least likely (65%) to live in an ETS free home. However, small sample numbers for some ethnic groups preclude a definitive answer. On the other hand, differences between labour force groupings are more apparent. For example, non-smokers 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 (75% and 62% respectively). Conversely, non-smoking residents who are presently employed or are retired are most likely to live in an ETS free household (84% each).

**Non-Smokers with ETS Free Home by Ethnicity & Labour Force Status, North Okanagan 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

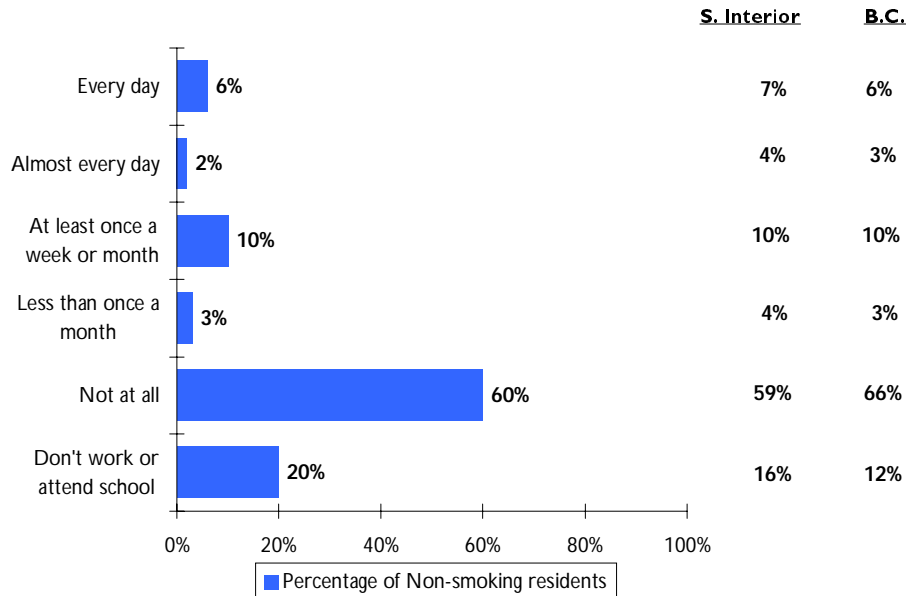
### 8.7.4 Exposure to ETS at Work or School

Non-smokers in the North Okanagan 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, 8% of non-smokers report exposure to ETS every day or nearly every day when at work or school, while 60% say they are not exposed to ETS

at all. This latter percentage is generally in keeping with the survey findings for the entire Southern Interior region, but is slightly lower than that for the province.

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



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

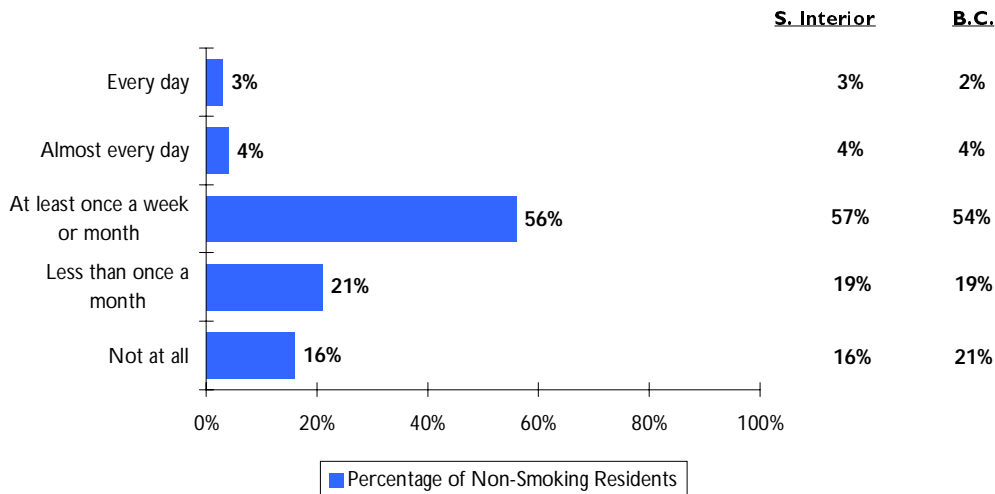
Residents of the North Okanagan who are university graduates, are somewhat more likely to report not being exposed to any ETS while at work or attending school (76%). By comparison, other demographic descriptors appear to be unrelated to whether or not the non-smoking residents of the North Okanagan 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 Okanagan 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 84% of the non-smoking residents in the North Okanagan. Daily or nearly daily exposure in such settings was acknowledged by 7% of non-smoking residents. These percentages are similar to that of the Southern Interior region generally and the province .

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



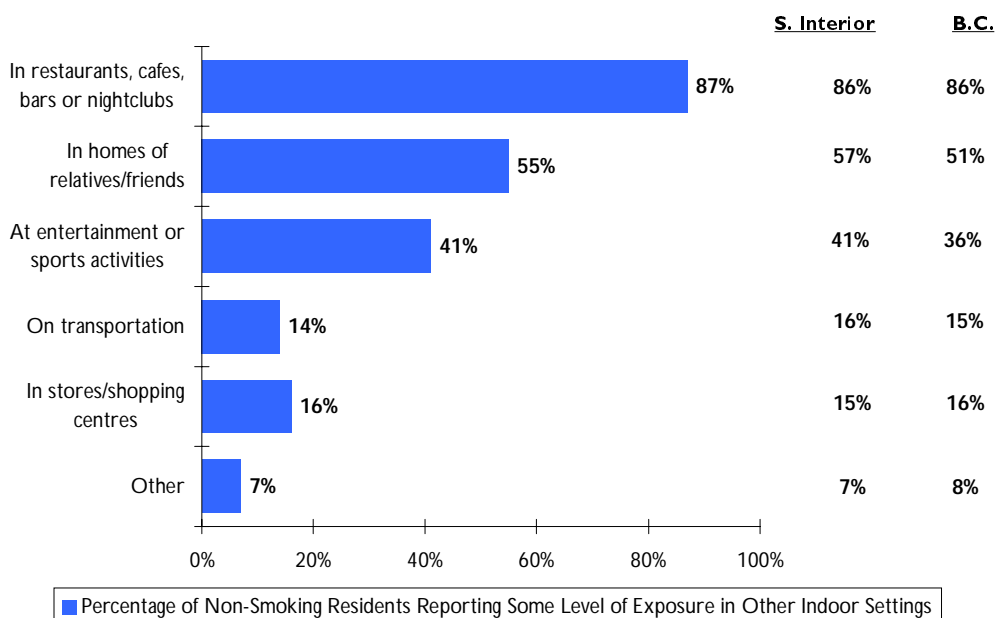
*Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes*

The 84% of non-smoking residents of the North Okanagan who indicated some level of exposure to ETS in the other indoor settings, were also asked specifically about being

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 following graph, a higher proportion of non-smoking residents report exposure to ETS in settings such as other people’s homes (55%) and restaurants, cafes, bars or nightclubs (87%), than they do for transportation (14%) and stores or shopping centres (16%). Moreover, this general pattern of findings is also evident in the survey data for the entire Southern Interior region and for the province.

**Exposure to ETS in Specific Indoor Settings among Non-Smokers, North Okanagan 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 Samples

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 Okanagan RHB Sample	Southern Interior Region Sample	British Columbia Sample
	%	%	%
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	50	50	49
Female	50	50	51
<b>Age</b>			
12-19	13	14	13
20-24	7	8	9
25-44	30	29	34
45-64	30	30	28
65+	20	20	17
Average	44.9	44.6	42.8
<b>Marital Status</b>			
Single	29	29	35
Married/Common Law	55	54	49
Separated/Divorced	8	8	8
Widowed	8	8	7
<b>Children</b>			
None	73	76	76
One	13	12	12
Two or more	14	10	12
<b>Education</b>			
Less than High School	9	8	6
Some High School	21	21	16
Completed High School	27	24	23
Some or Completed Technical/Community College	18	21	21
Some University	8	8	10
Completed University	11	10	15
Graduate Degree	5	5	8
<b>Income Adequacy</b>			
Low	7	6	5
Lower-Middle	13	12	10
Middle	32	31	26
Upper-Middle	35	36	38
High	14	15	21

	North Okanagan RHB Sample	Southern Interior Region Sample	British Columbia Sample
	%	%	%
<b>Labour Force Status</b>			
Working full-time	30	33	41
Working part-time	9	9	9
Self-Employed	12	11	9
Looking for work or unable to work	8	7	6
Student	8	9	10
Retired	28	26	20
Keeping house	4	5	4
<b>Place of Birth</b>			
In Canada	88	87	79
Outside Canada	12	13	21
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
British	49	50	47
European	46	46	38
South Asian	<	1	2
South East Asian	1	2	6
Canadian	13	13	13
Aboriginal	3	4	3
< Less than 0.5%			

Demographically, the North Okanagan differs from British Columbia on the following:

*Marital Status* - the North Okanagan has more married residents (55% vs. 49%) and fewer single residents (29% vs. 35%);

*Education* - the North Okanagan has more residents with high school or less (57% vs. 45%) and fewer university graduates (16% vs. 23%);

*Income Adequacy* - the North Okanagan has more residents with middle income adequacy (32% vs. 26%) and less with high income adequacy (14% vs. 21%);

*Labour Force Status* - the North Okanagan has fewer residents working full-time (30% vs. 41%) and more retired residents (28% vs. 20%);

*Place of Birth* - the North Okanagan has more residents born inside Canada (88% vs. 79%) and fewer born outside Canada (12% vs. 21%); and,

*Ethnicity* - the North Okanagan has fewer residents with a South East Asian background (1% vs. 6%) and more with a European background (46% vs. 38%).