

8. Okanagan Similkameen RHB Report

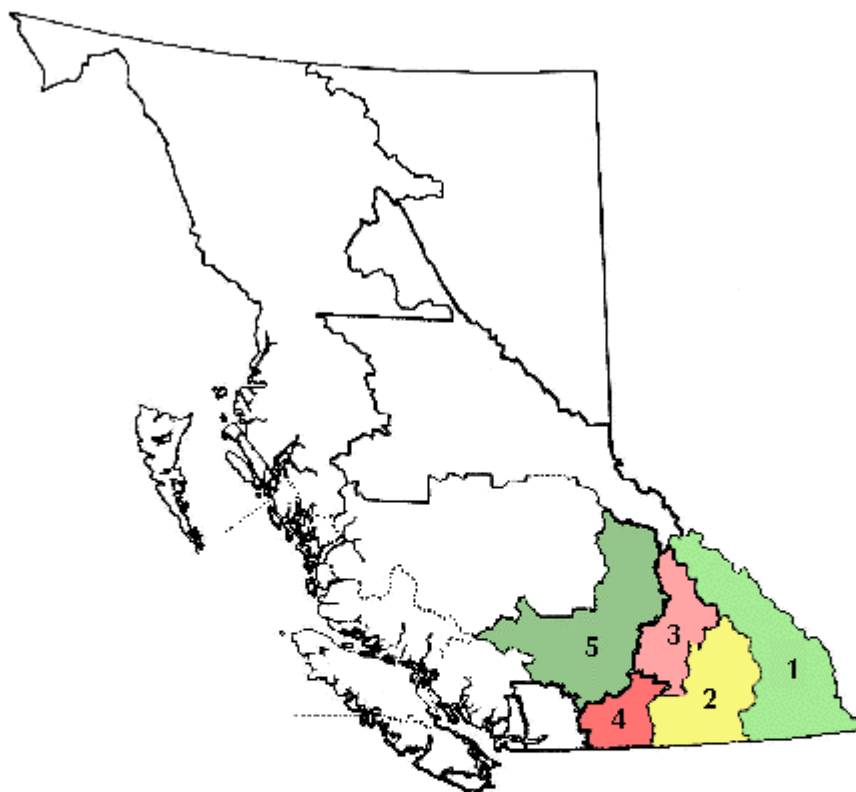
8.1 Introduction

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

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Southern and Central Vancouver Island
Vancouver and Lower Mainland

- 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 Okanagan Similkameen area make up 23% of residents while former smokers represent 33% and never smokers 44%. 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 1% or less. In looking at overall tobacco use, 25% of Okanagan Similkameen residents are current users, 33% are former users, 23% are lifetime abstainers and 19% are past experimenters or beginners. The average age of initiation for current and former cigarette smokers is similar (15.7 and 16.4). The average age of initiation is higher for ever users (current and former) of other forms of tobacco – cigars (23.2), pipes (25.6) and smokeless tobacco (20.6).

In the Okanagan Similkameen area certain socio-demographic characteristics are related to tobacco use – gender, age, marital status, education, country of birth, 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 - Two-thirds of non-smokers and 41% 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 6% in other indoor settings. This results in 17% of Okanagan Similkameen non-smoking residents who are exposed to ETS every day or almost every day or the equivalent of 13% of all Okanagan Similkameen residents. In total, 38% of Okanagan Similkameen residents' health is being adversely affected by tobacco (25% through current tobacco use and 13% through ETS).

8.3 Tobacco Use Status of South Okanagan Similkameen Residents

Detailed information concerning past and present use of all forms of tobacco, by the residents of Okanagan Similkameen (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 Okanagan Similkameen (aged 12+), is 23%. Daily users predominate among current cigarette smokers at 19%, while non-daily smokers represent 4% of all residents. As shown in the graph, this prevalence rate is very similar to that found in the Southern Interior region (24%) and the entire province (22%).

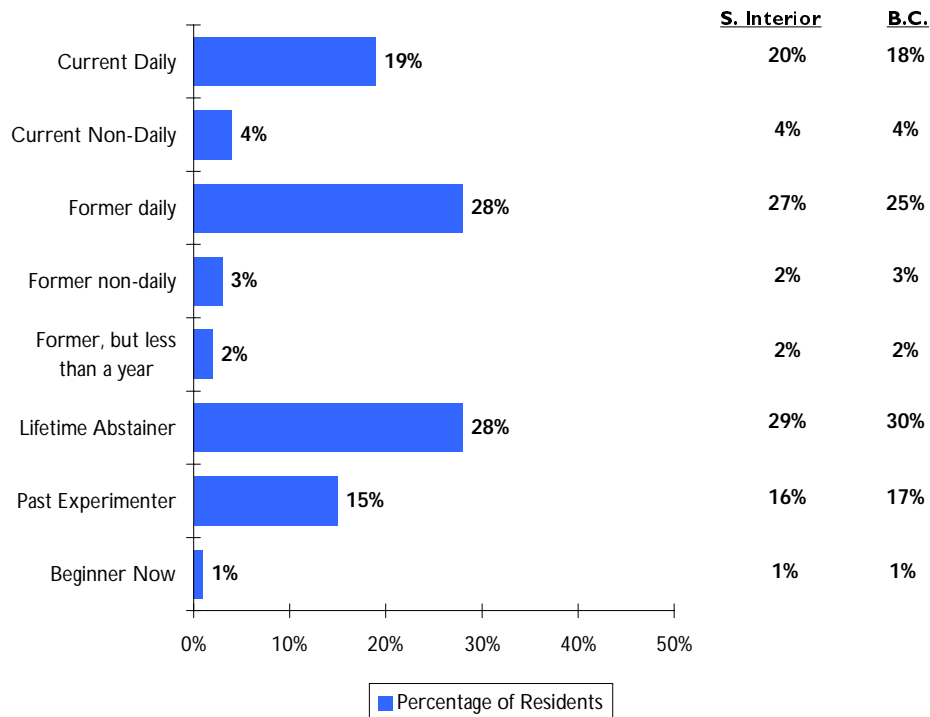
Former cigarette smokers comprise 33% of all Okanagan Similkameen residents. This percentage includes former daily smokers (28%), former non-daily smokers (3%), and former smokers, who quit less than a year ago (2%). These percentages are also quite similar to those found for the Southern Interior region and the entire province.

By contrast, Okanagan Similkameen RHB residents who have never smoked cigarettes represent 44% of the population aged 12+ years. These never users include lifetime

abstainers (28%), past experimenters (15%), and beginners (1%). 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 23% of residents in Okanagan Similkameen, while former smokers represent 33% and never smokers 44%. Overall, these proportions are very similar to those found for the Southern Interior region and the province.

Cigarette Smoking Status of Okanagan Similkameen RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997



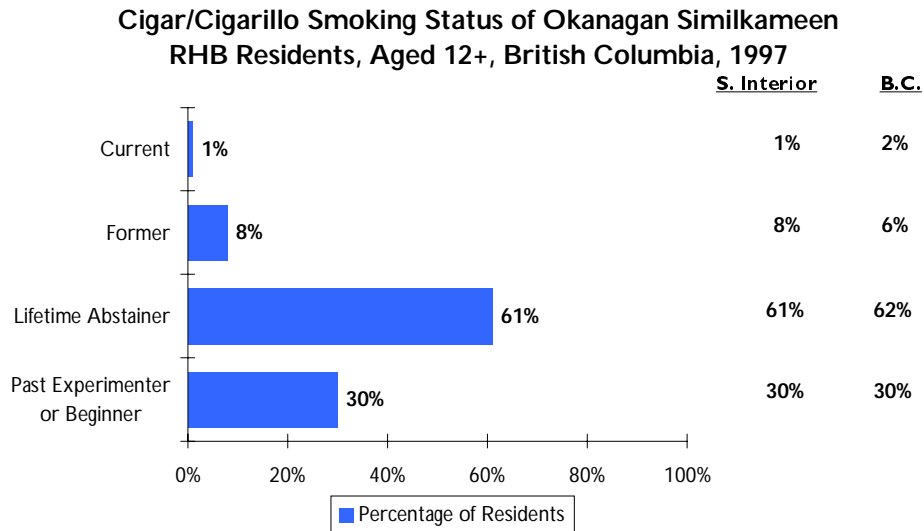
8.3.2 Alternate Tobacco Use Status

Cigar/Cigarillo Smoking Status

For cigar smoking among residents of the Okanagan Similkameen, 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 Okanagan Similkameen 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 is very 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 Okanagan Similkameen 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 (61%) and past experimenters or beginners (30%). These percentages are also in line with those found for the Southern Interior region and for the whole province.

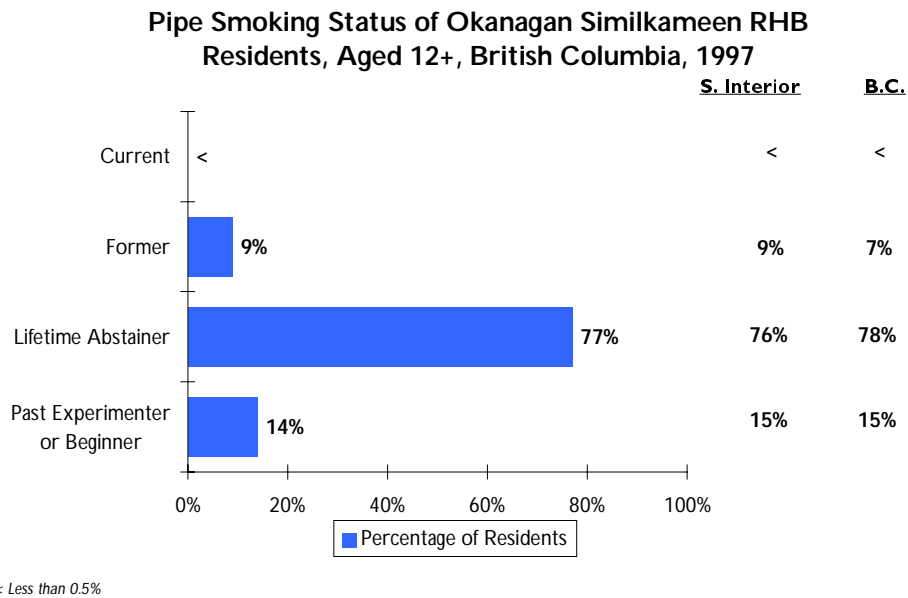


Pipe Smoking Status

For the smoking of pipe tobacco among Okanagan Similkameen 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 Okanagan Similkameen residents is less than 0.5%. Like cigar smoking, there are insufficient numbers of pipe smokers in Okanagan Similkameen 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 Okanagan Similkameen represent 9% 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 (77%) and a smaller group of past experimenters or beginners (14%). These percentages are also in keeping with those found for the Southern Interior region and for the whole province.



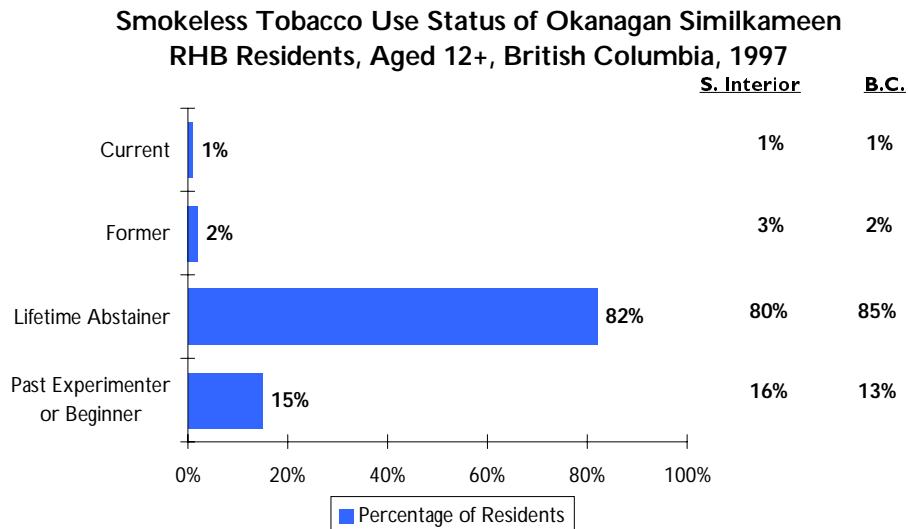
Smokeless Tobacco Use Status

Smokeless tobacco use (i.e., snuff, pinch and chewing tobacco) among Okanagan Similkameen 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 Okanagan Similkameen 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 2% of all Okanagan Similkameen 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 (82%) and past experimenters or beginners

(15%). These survey findings are consistent with that for the Southern Interior region and the province as a whole.

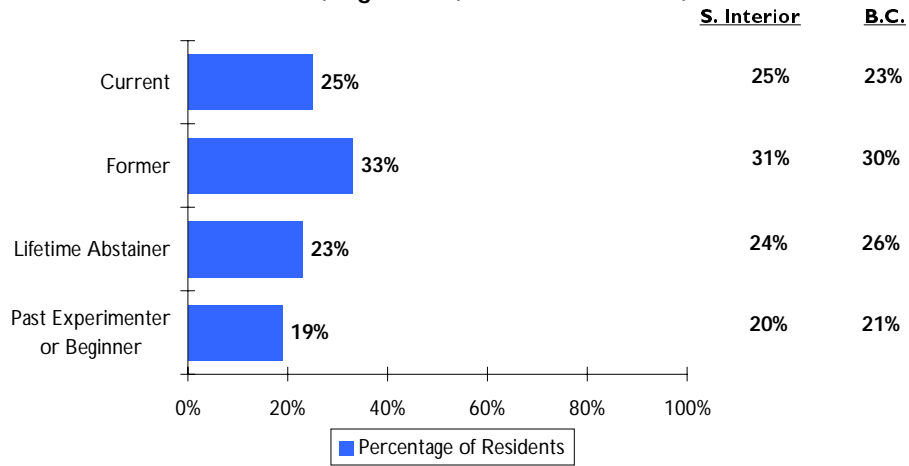


8.3.3 Overall Tobacco Use Status

The current prevalence of any form of tobacco use among Okanagan Similkameen residents aged 12+ years is summarized in 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 Okanagan Similkameen RHB.

Non-use is presently the norm among residents of Okanagan Similkameen, with 75% of the aged 12+ population indicating they do not currently use any form of tobacco. On the other hand, the survey does show that 25% of residents are currently using at least one form of tobacco. Former tobacco users represent 33% of the Okanagan Similkameen population, while never users include past experimenters or beginners at 19% and lifetime abstainers at 23%. As shown in the graph, these findings are very similar to that found elsewhere in province.

Overall Tobacco Use Status of Okanagan Similkameen RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997



8.4 Social Demographics of Tobacco Use

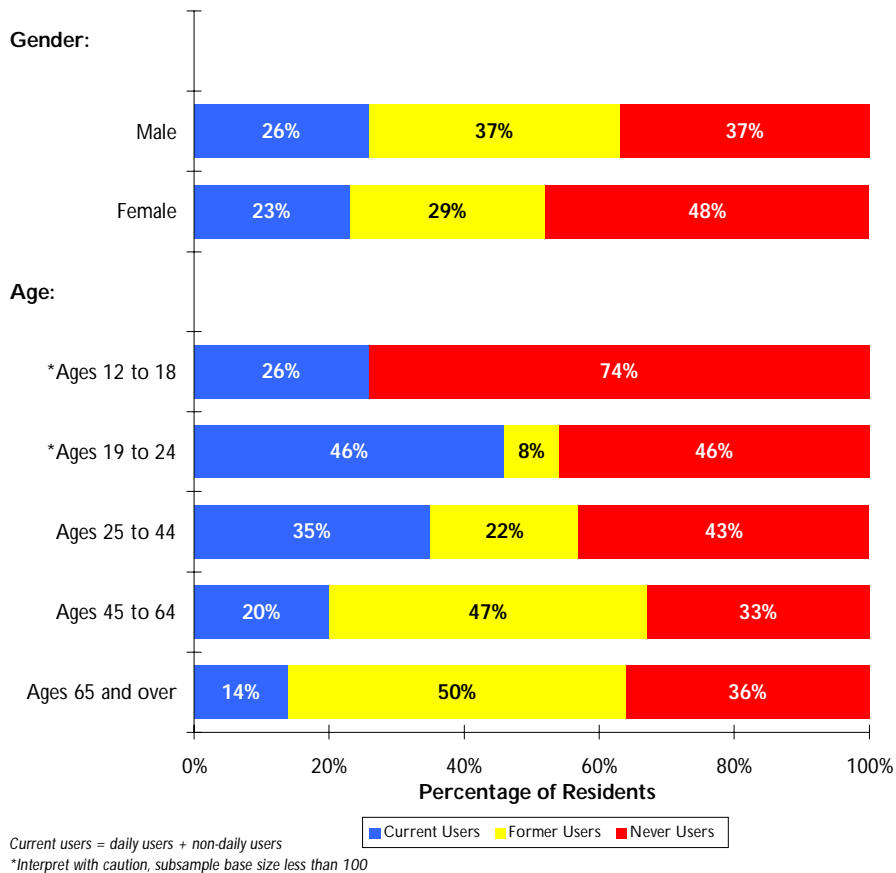
In this section, use of any form of tobacco (i.e., current, former vs. never) has been cross tabulated against a range of social demographic characteristics of residents, in order to demonstrate a number of social and economic variations in tobacco usage. As already outlined in *Overall Tobacco Use Status*, 25% of all Okanagan Similkameen residents are current tobacco users, 33% are former users, and 42% 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 (37% vs. 29%). On the other hand, female residents are more likely than male residents to have never been a tobacco user (48% vs. 37%).

In terms of age, current tobacco use is highest among 19 to 24 year olds (46%) and 25 to 44 year olds (35%), and lowest among those aged 65 and over (14%). Being a former user of tobacco rises steadily with age, from 0% among 12 to 18 year olds to 50% among residents aged 65 and over. On the other hand, the proportion of residents who have never used tobacco drops dramatically from 74% of 12 to 18 years olds to 46% of those aged 19 to 24 years. This percentage continues to decrease to 36% of those residents aged 65 and over.

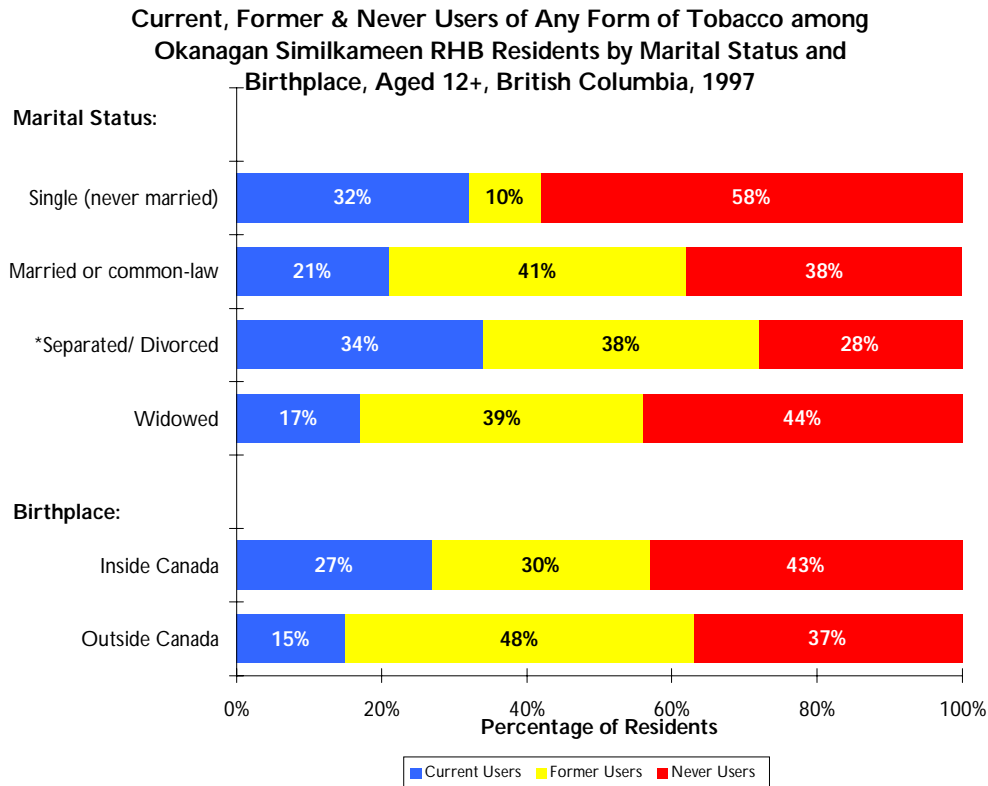
Current, Former & Never Users of Any Form of Tobacco among Okanagan Similkameen RHB Residents by Gender and Age, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997



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 Okanagan Similkameen are born inside or outside of Canada appears related to their lifetime experience with tobacco. For example, those Okanagan Similkameen residents who were born in Canada are more likely to be current tobacco users than those born outside of Canada (27% vs. 15%). Additionally, those residents born outside of Canada are more likely to be former tobacco users than those born in Canada (48% vs. 30%).

Differences in rates of tobacco use are also 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 (34%), while the proportion of former users is highest among those who are 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.

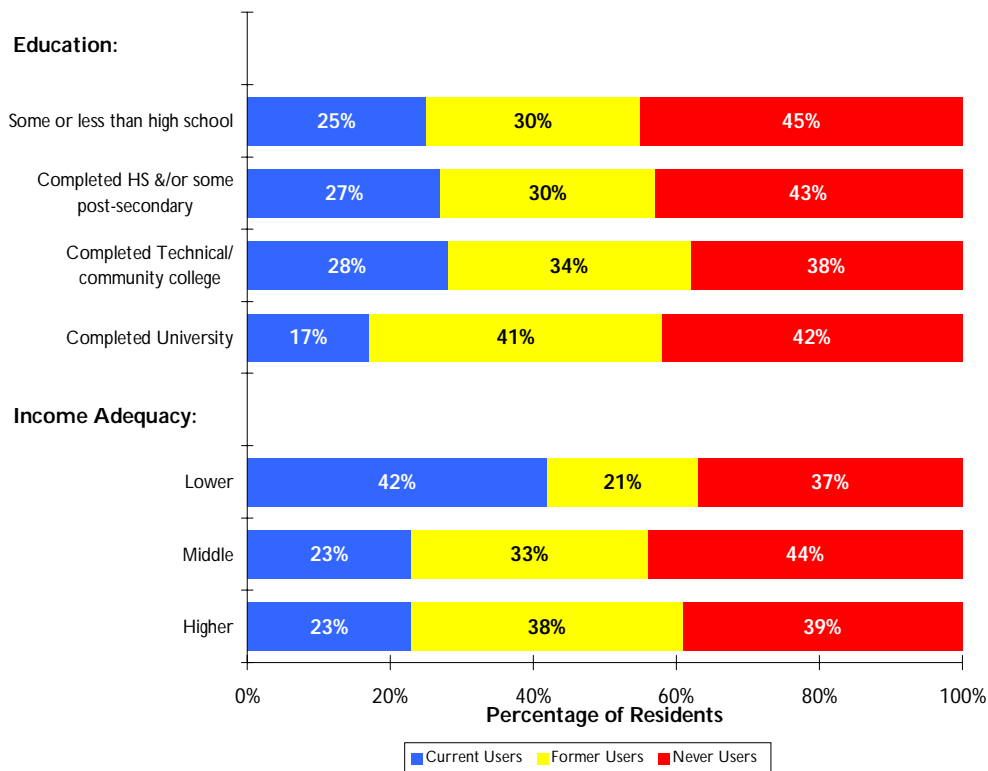


Current users = daily users + non-daily users
 *Interpret with caution, subsample base size less than 100

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 (42%), and conversely the lowest proportion of current users is found for residents who are university graduates (17%). Generally, higher proportions of former users are found among residents with higher income adequacy (38%) and university graduates (41%).

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



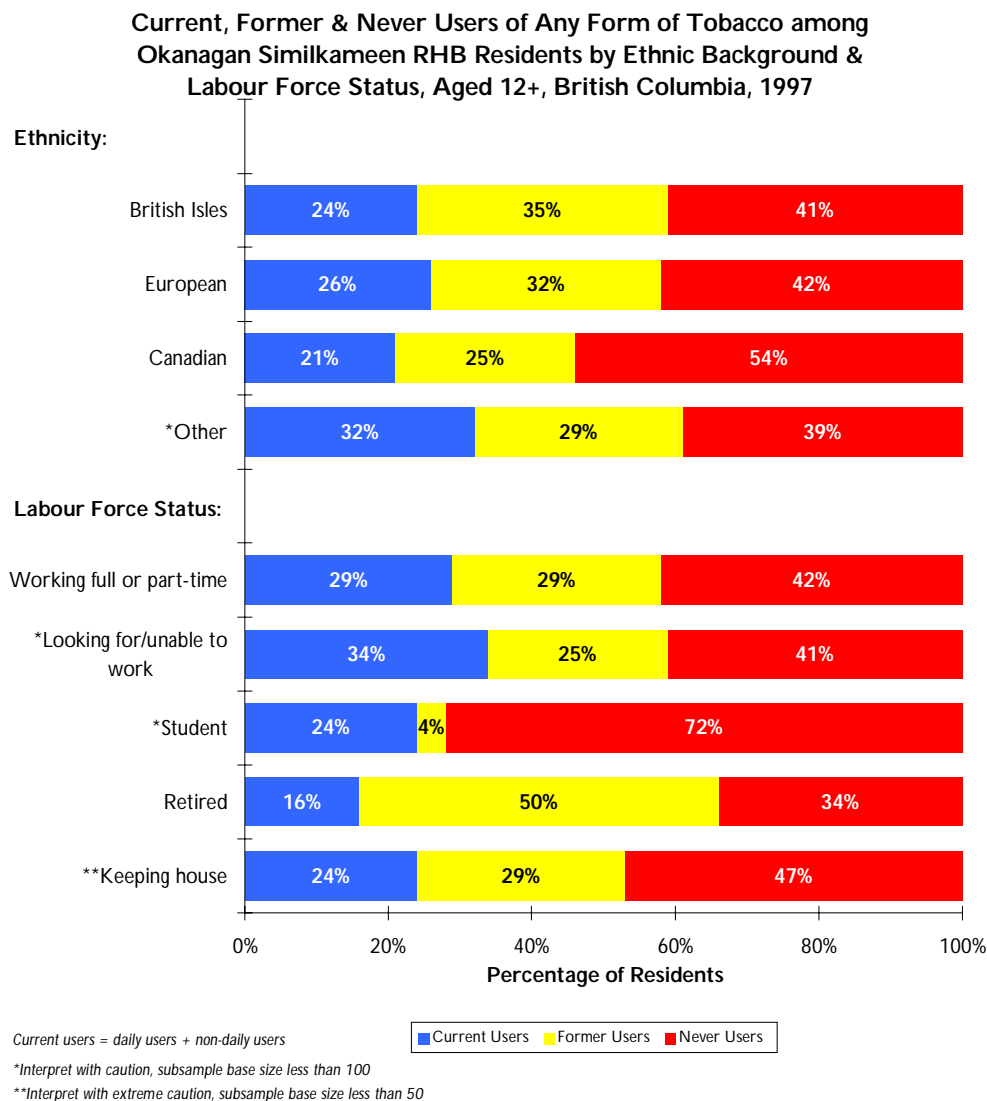
Current users = daily users + non-daily users

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 modest. However, current use is the lowest among residents who simply identified themselves as Canadian (21%), and highest amongst residents who identified "other" ethnic groups (32%).

Variations in tobacco use according to labour force status are more apparent from the graph. For example, among Okanagan Similkameen residents who are either looking for work or who are unable to work the proportion of current users is 34%. By contrast,

the proportion of current users among those working full or part-time is slightly lower at 29%. Current use of any form of tobacco by students and retired residents is quite low (24% and 16% respectively), but these proportions are largely attributable to the age of these residents, rather than their labour force status.



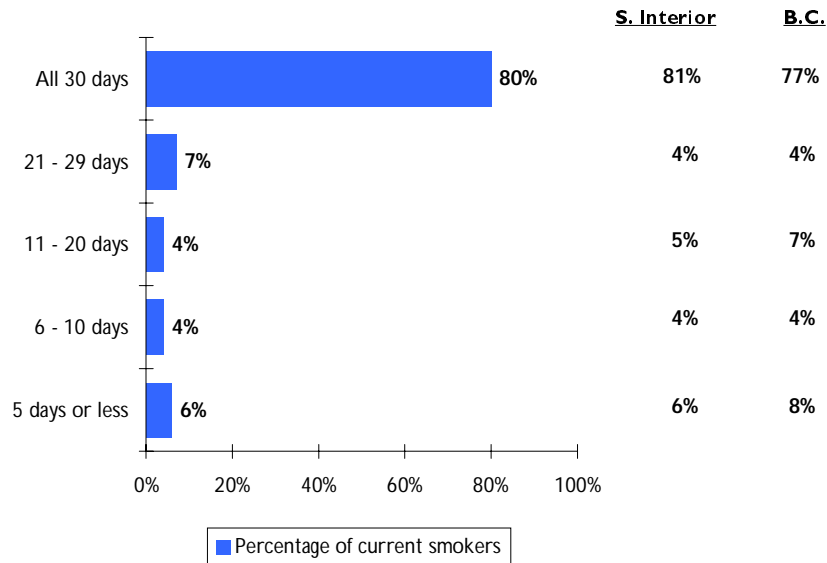
8.5 Frequency of Cigarette Smoking among Current Users

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.

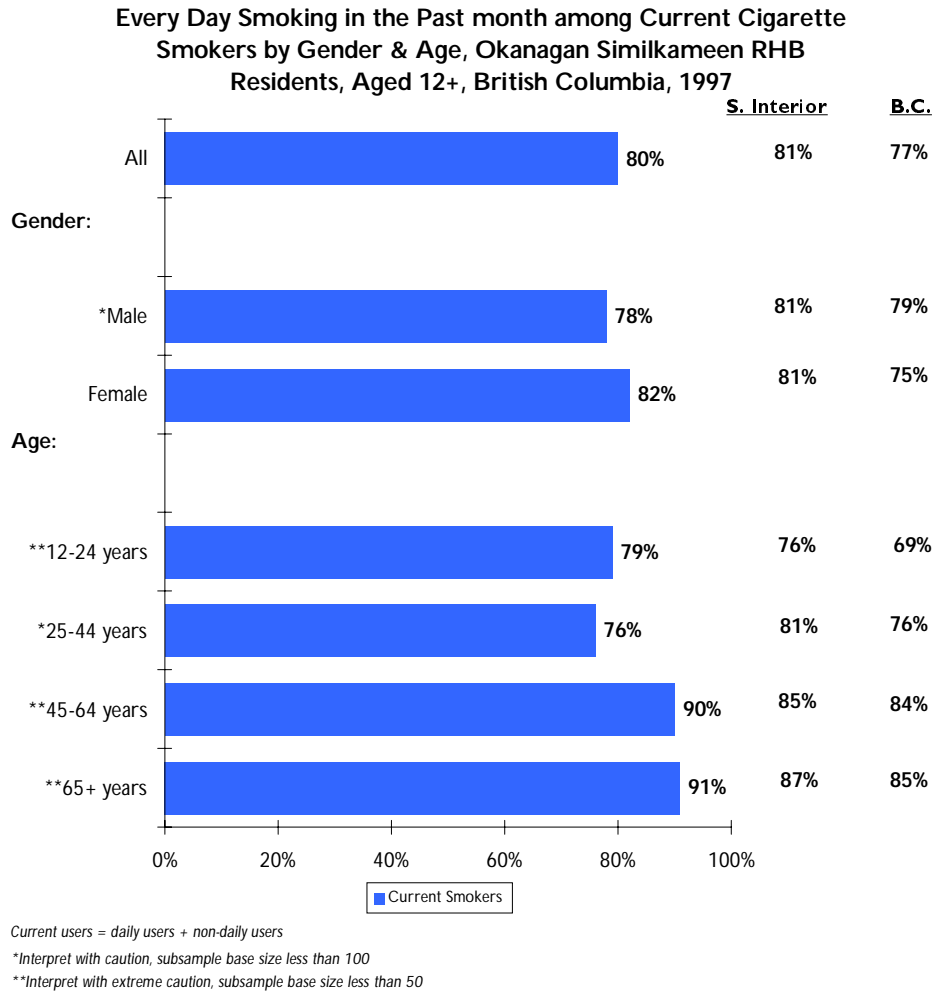
8.5.1 Days Smoked in Past Month

The number of days in the past month in which current cigarette smokers in Okanagan Similkameen 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 6% 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 similar to that found across the province (77%), and about the same as in the Southern Interior region (81%).

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



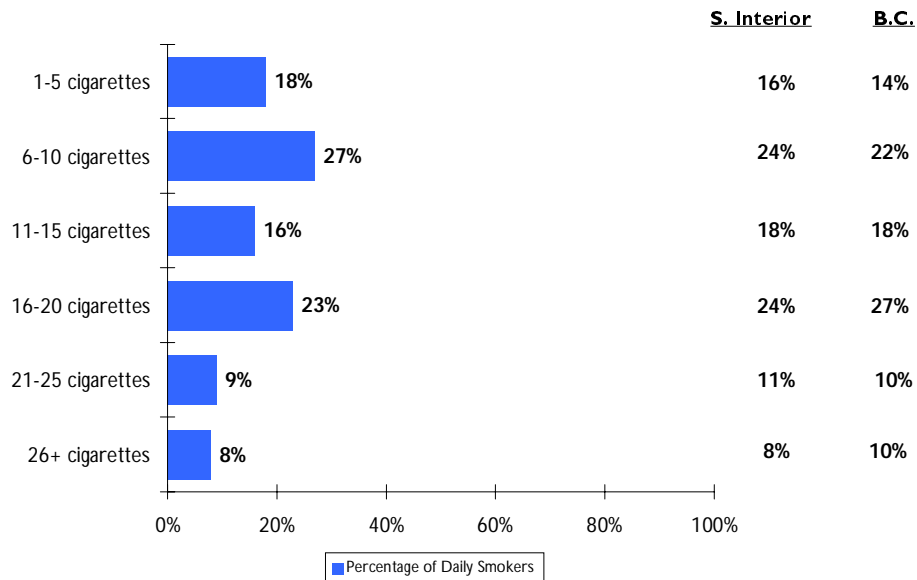
As shown in the following graph, females are slightly more likely to report smoking on all 30 days in the past month (i.e., are daily smokers) than are males (82% vs. 78%). Smoking on all 30 days during the past month is lowest among 25 to 44 year old cigarette smokers (76%) and then rises to 90% for ages 45 to 64, and 91% for ages 65+. 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 females in the Okanagan Similkameen RHB is slightly higher than in the entire province (82% vs. 75%).



8.5.2 Cigarettes per Day by Daily Smokers

Among daily cigarette smokers in the Okanagan Similkameen RHB 18% report averaging 5 or fewer cigarettes per day, but as can be seen in the graph below, 17% report averaging more than 20 cigarettes per day. The average number cigarettes smoked per day by daily cigarette smokers in Okanagan Similkameen is 14.9. This average number is slightly lower than the averages for daily cigarette smokers in the Southern Interior region (15.9 per day) and for the entire province (16.6 per day).

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



Averages: RHB=14.9; Region = 15.9; B.C. = 16.6

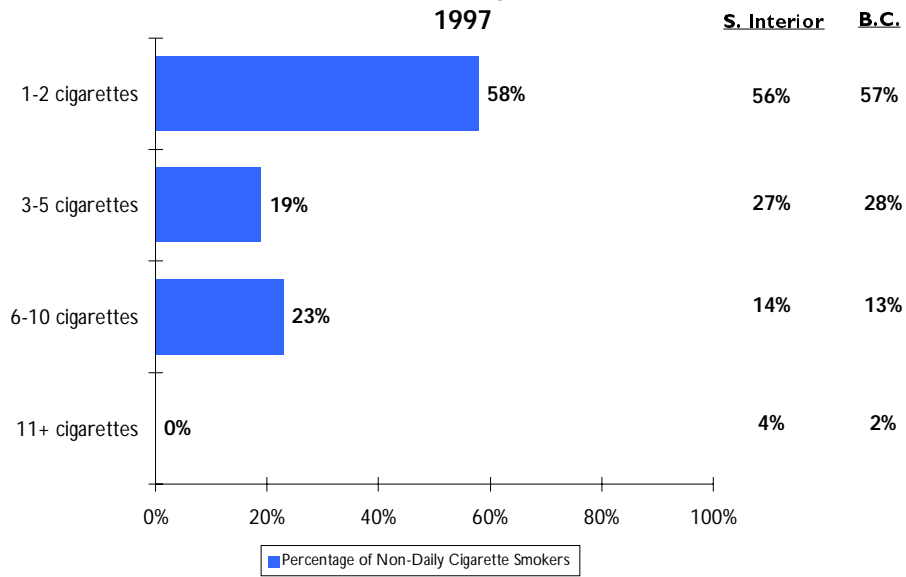
As shown in the table below, on average males smoke more per day than females (16.2 vs. 13.7). Additionally, the average number of cigarettes per day is highest in the 45 to 64 year age grouping (17.9), and lowest in the 12 to 24 age group (10.7). Both these gender and age differences are apparent for the Southern Interior region and for the province as a whole.

Average Number of Cigarettes per Day Among Daily Cigarette Smokers by Gender & Age, Okanagan Similkameen RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997			
	Okanagan Similkameen RHB	S. Interior	B.C.
All	14.9	15.9	16.6
Gender:			
Male	16.2	17.3	18.2
Female	13.7	14.5	15.0
Age:			
**12-24 years	10.7	11.5	12.2
*25-44 years	16.3	17.2	16.8
**45-64 years	17.9	18.3	19.2
**65+ years	14.4	15.1	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 Okanagan Similkameen RHB (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 58% of these smokers report having only 1 to 2 per day, 19% report having 3 to 5 per day, and 23% 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 3.7. These percentages are not completely consistent with those of other non-daily cigarette smokers in the Southern Interior region and the province (see graph). However, given the small sample numbers here, these differences could easily be accounted for by sampling variability.

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



Averages: RHB=3.7; 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

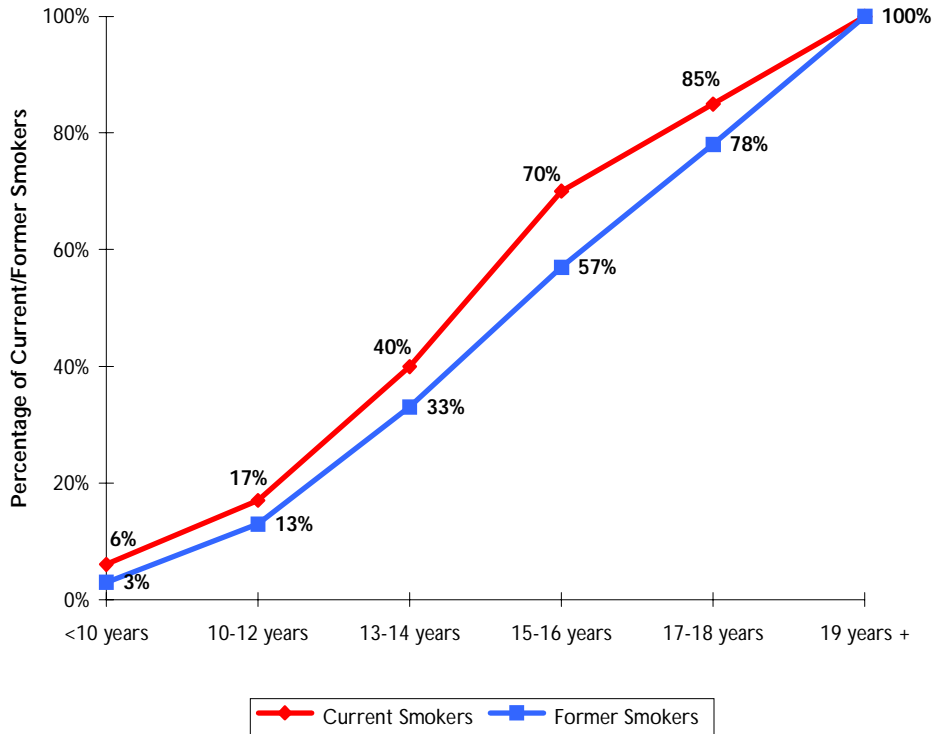
Both former and current users of tobacco identified by the survey were asked their age when they first started using various tobacco products. In the case of cigarettes, they were asked either their age when they smoked their first whole cigarette (if aged 12 to 19 years), or alternatively, their age 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 Okanagan Similkameen RHB 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 17 where more current smokers are more likely to have started than former smokers (70% vs. 57%). To elaborate, among **current** cigarette smokers, 17% began smoking before the age of 13, 40% began smoking before age 15 and 85% began smoking before age 19. The average age of initiation for those Okanagan Similkameen residents who currently smoke cigarettes is 15.7 years. This pattern of responses is similar among **former** cigarette smokers, with 13% indicating they began smoking before the age of 13, 33% began before age 15 and 78% began before age 19. The average age of initiation among former cigarette smokers is 16.4 years.

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

- Age when smoked first cigarette or started smoking cigarettes -



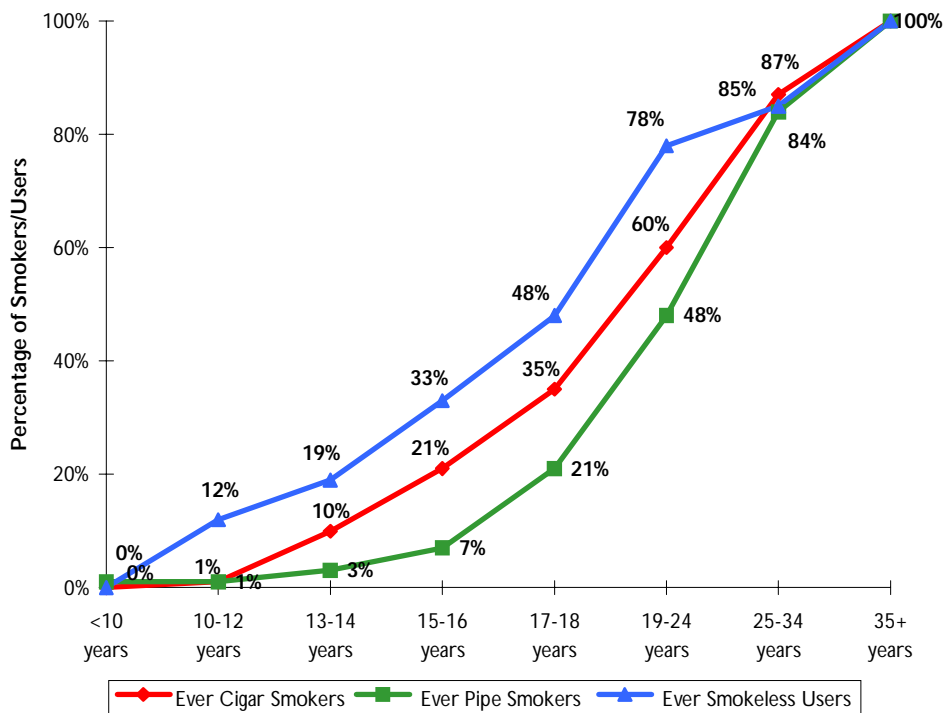
As shown in the table below, these average ages for the onset of cigarette smoking are nearly identical to those observed in the Southern Interior region and in the entire province.

Average Age of Initiation among Current & Former Cigarette Smokers, Okanagan Similkameen Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997			
	Okanagan Similkameen RHB	S. Interior	B.C.
	Years	Years	Years
Current	15.7	15.6	15.7
Former	16.4	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 Okanagan Similkameen RHB who have ever used (current + former) cigars, pipes and smokeless tobacco are displayed in the graph below.

Cumulative Distribution for Age of Initiation among Ever Cigar Smokers†, Ever Pipe Smokers† & Ever Smokeless Users‡, Okanagan Similkameen RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997
 - Age when first started smoking/using -



Ever = Current + Former
 †Interpret with caution, total base size less than 100
 ‡Interpret with extreme caution, total base size less than 50

Among those Okanagan Similkameen residents who have ever smoked cigars, just 1% began smoking cigars before age 13, 35% began before age 19, 60% began before age 25, and 87% began before age 35. Compared to cigarette smoking, the average age of onset

for cigar smoking is somewhat older at 23.2 years and this 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 Okanagan Similkameen residents who have ever smoked pipe tobacco, just 1% began smoking before age 13, 21% began before age 19, 48% began before age 25, and 84% began before age 35. The average age of onset for pipe smoking is even older than that for cigars at 25.6 years. Yet this average is much closer 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 Okanagan Similkameen who have ever used smokeless tobacco, 12% began before age 13, 48% began before age 19, 78% began before age 25, and 85% 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 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 Smoker†, Ever Pipe Smoker† & Ever Smokeless Users‡, Okanagan Similkameen Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997			
	Okanagan Similkameen RHB	S. Interior	B.C.
	Years	Years	Years
Ever Cigar Smoker	23.2	22.6	22.8
Ever Pipe Smoker	25.6	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

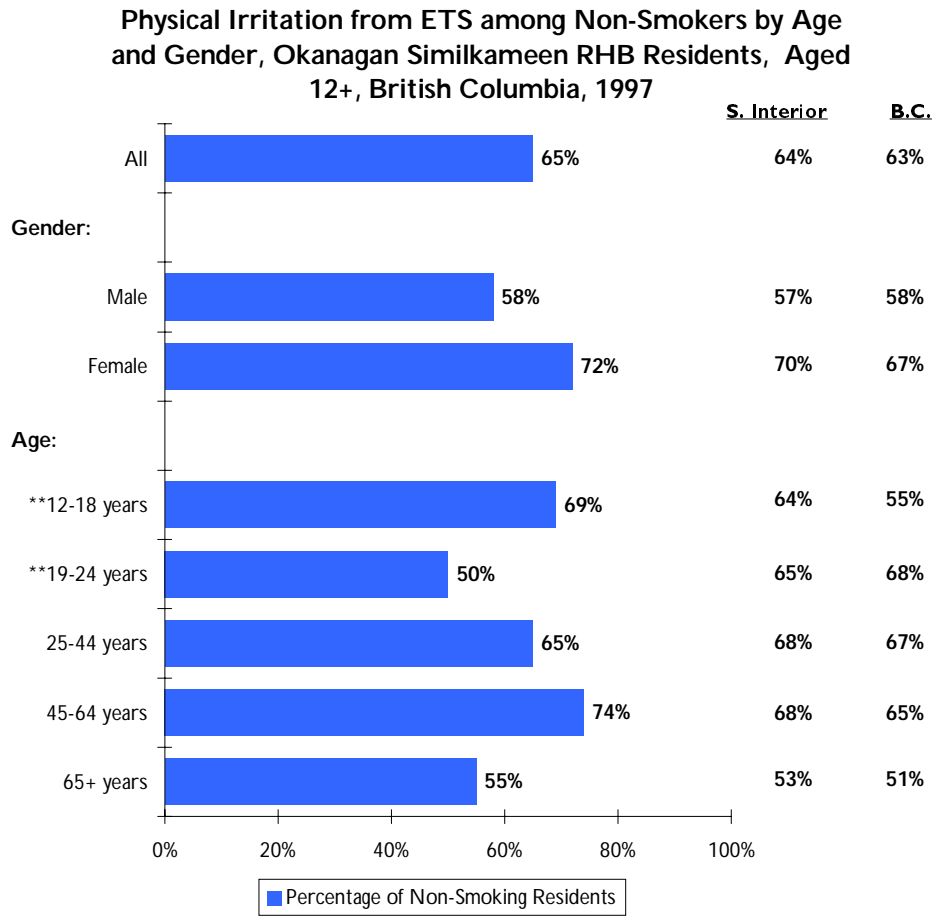
In addition to inquiring directly about tobacco use, the survey also asked residents of the Okanagan Similkameen RHB about their exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), sometimes known as secondhand smoke, in their own homes, at work and school and in other public places. Being exposed to ETS 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 (65%) of non-smokers (i.e., those Okanagan Similkameen residents who do not currently use cigarettes, cigars or a pipe) report they are usually physically irritated by ETS. Interestingly, even 41% of current smokers report physical irritation.

Some gender differences in the proportion of non-smokers are evident with 58% of males versus 72% of females indicating they are usually irritated by ETS. Age related differences are also evident with 19-24 year olds & 65+ being the least irritated by ETS (50% & 55% respectively). Small base sizes for the younger age categories may explain the variability from regional and provincial results. The pattern of responses for those 25 and older is more consistent with the Southern Interior and B.C..

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.



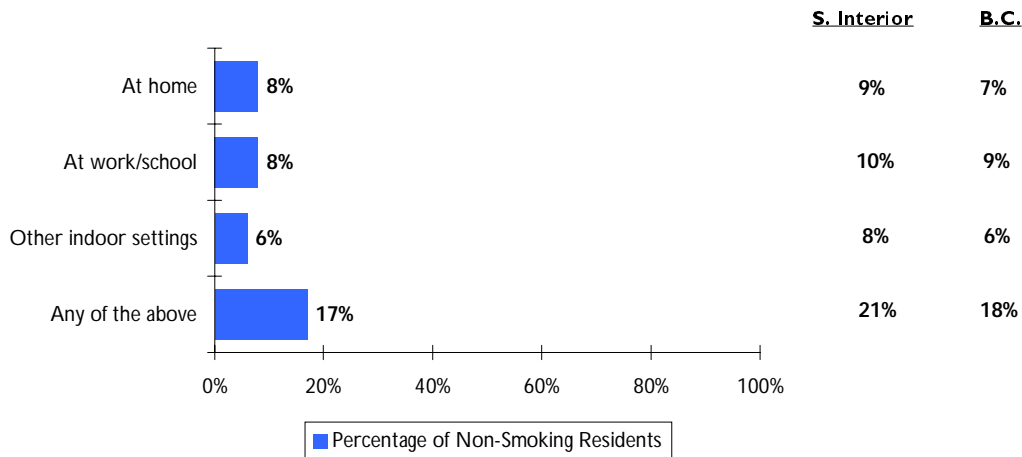
*Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.
 **Interpret with extreme caution, subsample base size less than 50*

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 Okanagan Similkameen RHB. 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 17% 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 slightly lower than that observed for the Southern Interior region (21%) but in-line with province as a whole (18%). It seems especially noteworthy that the 17% of non-smoking residents who are exposed to ETS daily or nearly daily, translates into 13% of all Okanagan Similkameen residents.

Exposure to ETS Every Day or Nearly Every Day among Non-Smokers, Okanagan Similkameen RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997

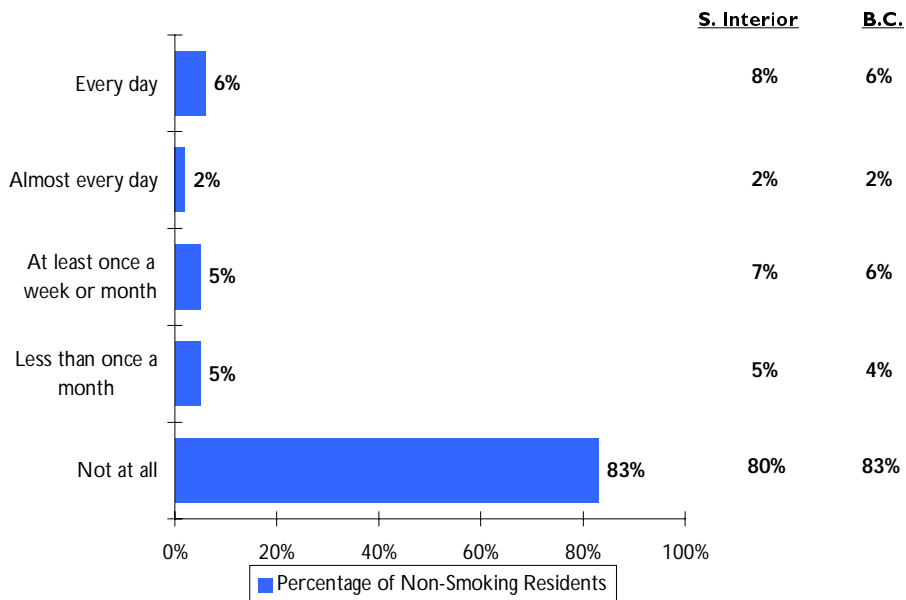


Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.

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 Okanagan Similkameen RHB report being exposed to ETS inside their home on a daily or nearly daily basis. On the other hand, 83% report no exposure to ETS at all in their homes. Non-smokers in Okanagan Similkameen have very similar ETS exposure levels to those in the Southern Interior region generally and the whole province.

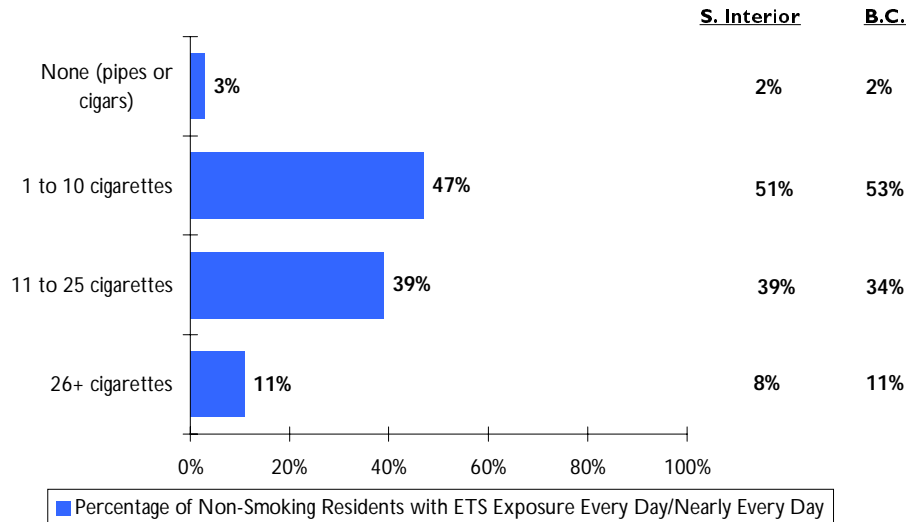
Frequency of Exposure to ETS at Home among Non-Smokers, Okanagan Similkameen RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997



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

Okanagan Similkameen 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. Forty-seven percent of these residents indicated they are exposed to smoke from 1 to 10 cigarettes per day and 39% 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 14.8, and as shown in the graph to follow, this average is consistent with 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‡, Okanagan Similkameen RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997

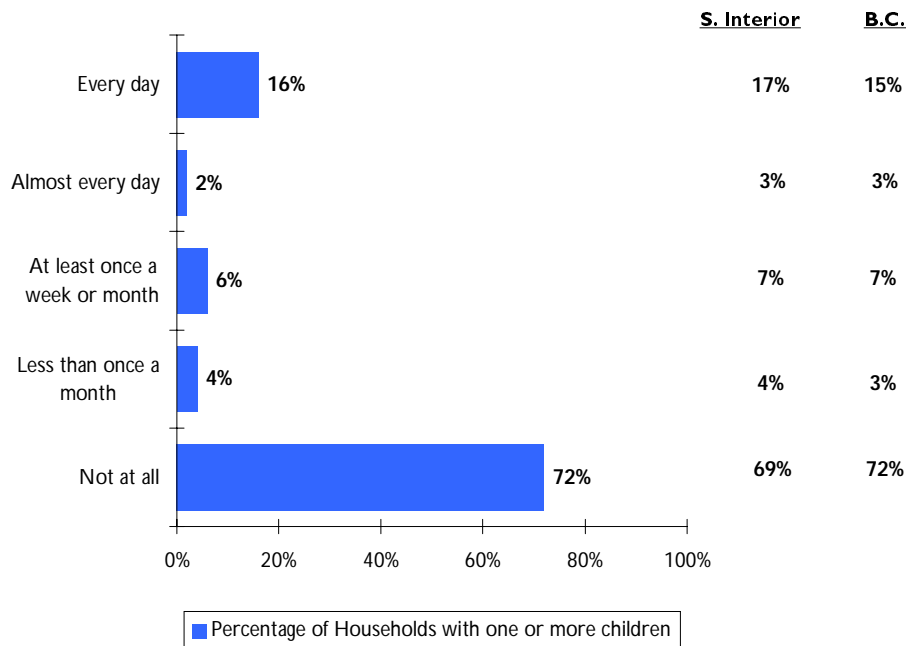


Average: Okanagan Similkameen RHB = 14.8; Region = 14.0; B.C. = 14.3

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

Households with Children: ETS exposure in Okanagan Similkameen households with children age 11 and under are highlighted in the graph below. In 18% of these households there is daily or nearly daily exposure to ETS, and in 72% there is no ETS exposure at all. These percentages are very similar to 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).

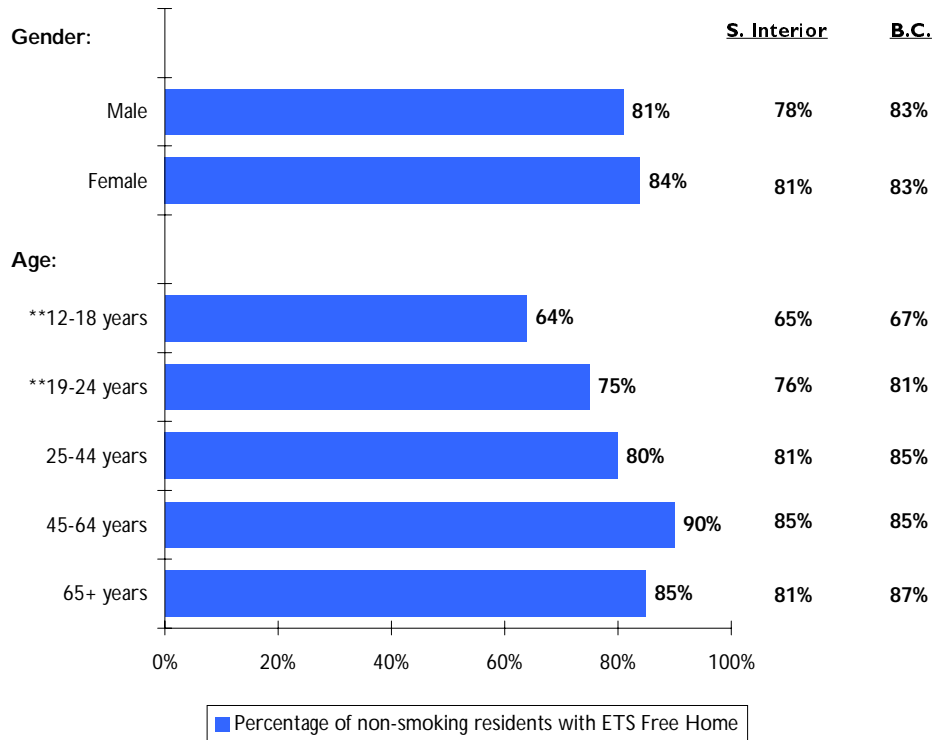
Frequency of Exposure to ETS in Homes with Children Aged 11 Years and Under, Okanagan Similkameen RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997



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 17.6. This average is very similar to that found for such households in the Southern Interior region (18.1) and the province (18.2).

ETS Free Households Non-smoking residents of Okanagan Similkameen who live in households with no ETS exposure at all are equally likely to be male or female (81% vs. 84%), but as shown in the graph, this probability tends to vary depending on the age of the resident. For instance, just 64% of 12 to 18 year old non-smoking residents live in households with no ETS exposure at all, but this percentage rises to 90% among non-smokers age 45 to 64 years and 85% among non-smokers 65 years and over.

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

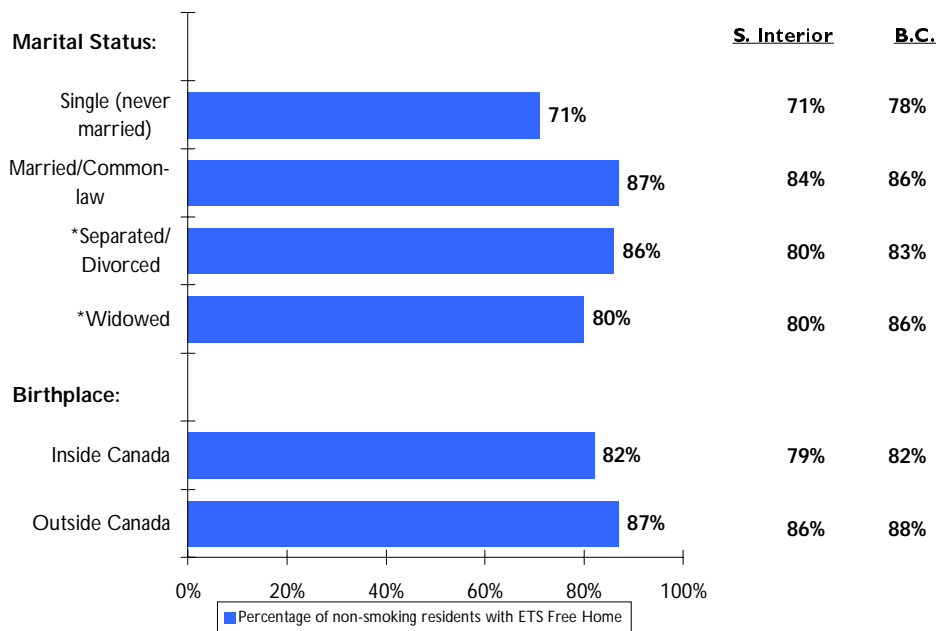


Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.

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

Non-smokers living in a household with no ETS exposure at all are slightly more likely among Okanagan Similkameen residents who were born outside of Canada, in comparison to those born in Canada (87% vs. 82%). Similarly, as shown in the following graph, single non-smoking residents are least likely to live in a household with no ETS exposure at all (71%), compared to non-smokers who are either married (87%), separated, divorced (86%), or widowed (80%).

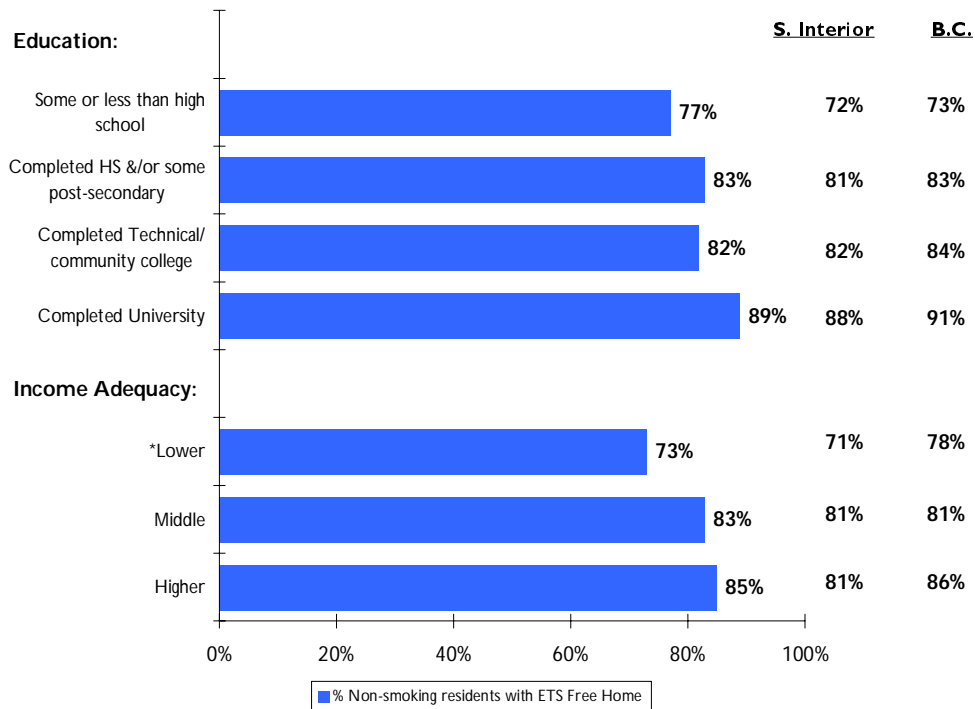
**Non-Smokers with ETS Free Home by Marital Status & Birthplace,
Okanagan Similkameen RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British
Columbia, 1997**



*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 73% 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 higher income adequacy. A similar difference is apparent between residents with some or less than a high school education (77%) and those who are university graduates (89%).

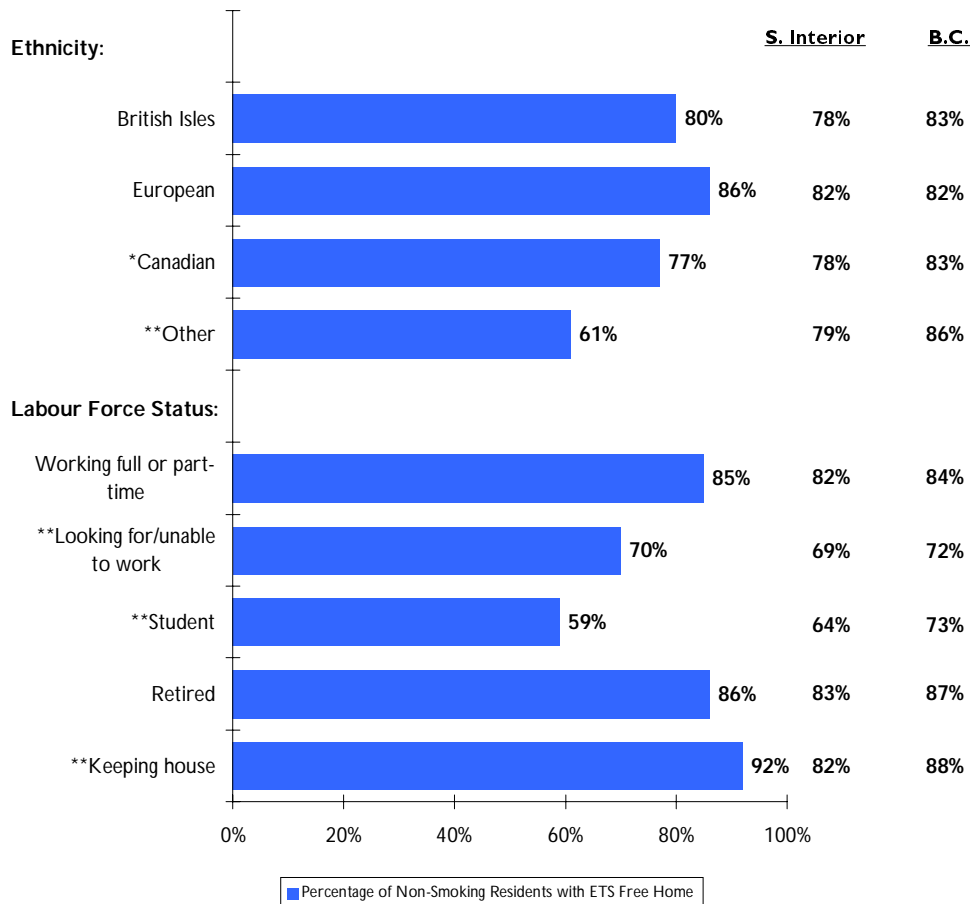
Non-Smokers with ETS Free Home By Income Adequacy & Education, Okanagan Similkameen RHB Residents, Aged 12+, British Columbia, 1997



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

The graph below displays the same relationship for the ethnicity and labour force status of Okanagan Similkameen residents who do not smoke. For the most part, ethnic group membership appears to be somewhat related to whether or not non-smoking residents live in a household with no ETS exposure at all. European residents are most likely to live in an ETS free household (86%), while residents who identified some “other” ethnic group are least likely (61%). 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 (59% and 70% respectively). Conversely, non-smoking residents who are presently employed (85%), are retired (86%), and those keeping house (92%) are more likely to live in an ETS free household.

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

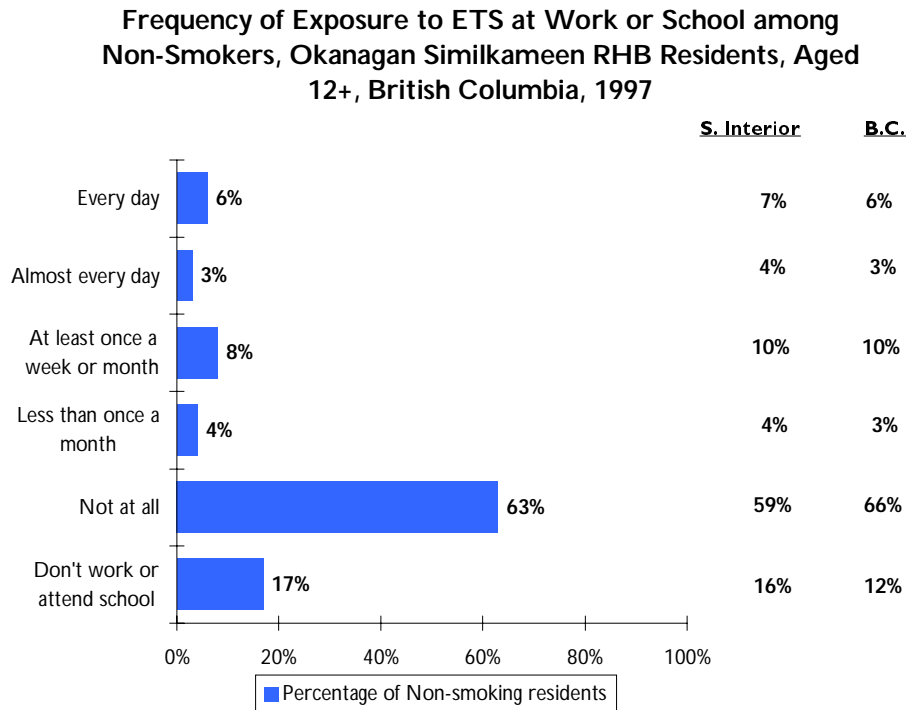
**Interpret with extreme caution, subsample base size less than 50

8.7.4 Exposure to ETS at Work or School

Non-smokers in the Okanagan Similkameen RHB 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, about 9% of non-smokers report exposure to ETS every day or nearly every day when at work or school, while 63% say they are not

exposed to ETS at all. These percentages are generally in keeping with the survey findings for the entire Southern Interior region and with that for the province.



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

Female residents who do not smoke are somewhat more likely than males to report not being exposed to any ETS while at work or attending school (67%). By comparison, other demographic descriptors appear to be unrelated to whether or not the non-smoking residents of Okanagan Similkameen are exposed to ETS at work or school (data not shown).

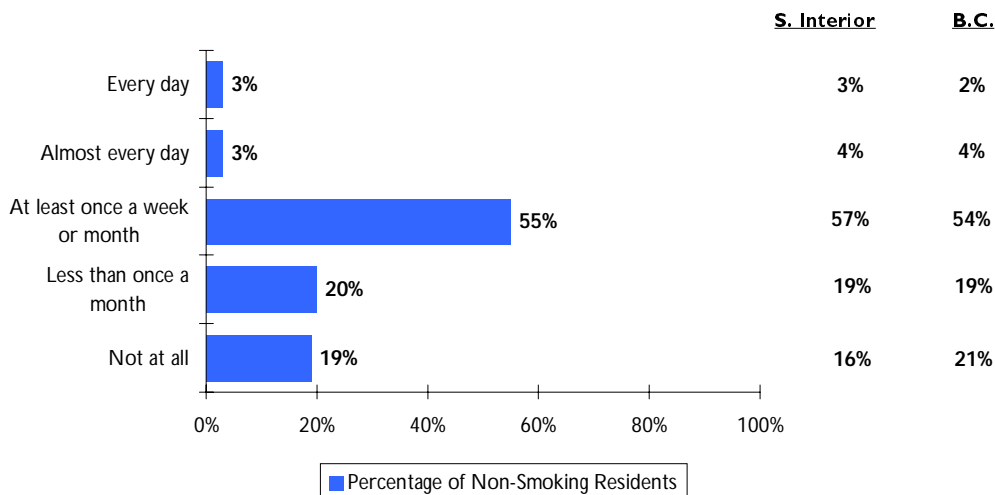
8.7.5 Exposure to ETS in Other Indoor Settings

Finally, all non-smokers in the Okanagan Similkameen RHB 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 81% of the non-smoking residents in Okanagan Similkameen. Daily or nearly daily exposure in such settings was acknowledged by 6% of non-smoking residents. This percentage appears to be consistent with that for the Southern Interior region generally (7%) and for the province (6%).

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

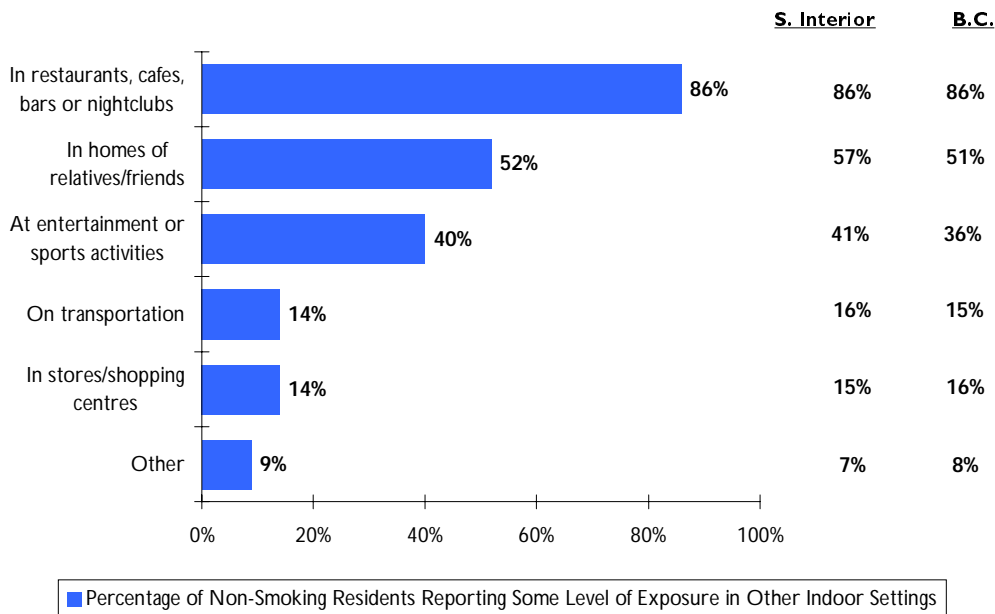


Non-smoking residents = those who do not currently smoke cigarettes, cigars or pipes.

The 81% of non-smoking residents of Okanagan Similkameen 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 (52%) and restaurants, cafes, bars or nightclubs (86%), than they do for transportation (14%) and stores or shopping centres (14%). 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, Okanagan Similkameen 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+).

	South Okanagan/ Similkameen RHB Sample	Southern Interior Region Sample	British Columbia Sample
	%	%	%
Gender			
Male	48	50	49
Female	52	50	51
Age			
12-19	12	14	13
20-24	7	8	9
25-44	27	29	34
45-64	29	30	28
65+	25	20	17
Average	47.0	44.6	42.8
Marital Status			
Single	25	29	35
Married/Common Law	57	54	49
Separated/Divorced	8	8	8
Widowed	9	8	7
Children			
None	79	76	76
One	10	12	12
Two or more	11	13	12
Education			
Less than High School	6	8	6
Some High School	20	21	16
Completed High School	24	24	23
Some or Completed Technical/Community College	21	21	21
Some University	9	8	10
Completed University	11	10	15
Graduate Degree	7	5	8
Income Adequacy			
Low	6	6	5
Lower-Middle	12	12	10
Middle	32	31	26
Upper-Middle	36	36	38

High	15	15	21
	South Okanagan/ Similkameen RHB Sample	Southern Interior Region Sample	British Columbia Sample
	%	%	%
Labour Force Status			
Working full-time	31	33	41
Working part-time	9	9	9
Self-Employed	11	11	9
Looking for work or unable to work	7	7	6
Student	8	9	10
Retired	30	26	20
Keeping house	4	5	4
Place of Birth			
In Canada	85	87	79
Outside Canada	15	13	21
Ethnicity			
British	51	50	47
European	46	46	38
South Asian	1	1	2
South East Asian	1	2	6
Canadian	12	13	13
Aboriginal	3	4	3

Demographically, Okanagan Similkameen RHB differs from British Columbia on the following:

Age - Okanagan Similkameen RHB has fewer residents aged 25-44 (27% vs. 34%) and more aged 65 + (25% vs. 17%);

Marital Status - Okanagan Similkameen RHB has more married residents (57% vs. 49%) and fewer single residents (25% vs. 35%);

Education - Okanagan Similkameen RHB has more residents with high school or less (50% vs. 45%) and fewer university graduates (18% vs. 23%);

Income Adequacy - Okanagan Similkameen RHB has more middle income adequacy residents (32% vs. 26%) and fewer high income adequacy residents (15% vs. 21%);

Labour Force Status - Okanagan Similkameen RHB has fewer residents employed full time (31% vs. 41%) and more retired residents (30% vs. 20%);

Place of Birth - Okanagan Similkameen RHB has more residents born inside Canada (85% vs. 79%) and fewer born outside Canada (15% vs. 21%); and,

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