

## Smoking Status

|                                         |                                      |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Age Cohorts</b>                      | Younger and Mid-age                  |
| <b>Surveys</b>                          | Survey 2                             |
| <b>Derived Variable</b>                 | SmkAIHW                              |
| <b>Definition</b>                       | Tobacco smoking status               |
| <b>Source Items<br/>(Index Numbers)</b> | SMOK1 (SMOK-007)<br>SMOK2 (SMOK-018) |
| <b>Statistical Form</b>                 | Categorical variable                 |
| <b>Index Number</b>                     | SMOK-022                             |
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| <b>Endorsed</b>                         | 16 April 2003                        |

### Source Items

SMOK1 How often do you currently smoke cigarettes or any tobacco products?

| Code | Response                        |
|------|---------------------------------|
| 1    | Daily                           |
| 2    | At least weekly (but not daily) |
| 3    | Less often than weekly          |
| 4    | Not at all                      |

SMOK2 In your lifetime, would you have smoked at least 100 cigarettes (or equivalent)?

| Code | Response |
|------|----------|
| 1    | Yes      |
| 2    | No       |

### Derived Variable

At the second ALSWH surveys of younger and mid-age women, survey items concerning tobacco smoking (above) were revised in line with contemporary recommendations by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).<sup>1</sup> These two items were used to define categories for smoking status that were detailed in the National Health Data Dictionary<sup>2</sup> (see over).

| <b>Code</b> | <b>AIHW Category</b>                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1           | Never smoker<br><i>A person who does not smoke now and has smoked fewer than 100 cigarettes or similar amount of other tobacco products in his/her lifetime</i>       |
| 2           | Ex-smoker<br><i>A person who does not smoke at all now, but has smoked at least 100 cigarettes or a similar amount of other tobacco products in his/her lifetime.</i> |
| 3           | Irregular smoker<br><i>A person who smokes less than weekly</i>                                                                                                       |
| 4           | Weekly smoker<br><i>A person who smokes at least weekly but not daily</i>                                                                                             |
| 5           | Daily smoker:<br><i>A person who smokes daily</i>                                                                                                                     |

Note that the ALWSH data sets contain another measure of smoking status (SmokSt) which is similar to but not interchangeable with AIHW definition. Categories for SmokSt are:

| <b>Code</b> | <b>Response</b>                                         |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1           | Never smoker                                            |
| 2           | Ex-smoker                                               |
| 3           | Current smoker – smokes less than 10 cigarettes per day |
| 4           | Current smoker – smokes 10-19 cigarettes per day        |
| 5           | Current smoker – smokes 20 or more cigarettes per day   |

Smoking status (SmkAIHW) is defined for women completing the full and short versions of Survey 2 in the Younger cohort (n=9 685) and women completing the full version only of Survey 2 in the Mid-age cohort (n=11 648). The distribution of SmkAIHW in the second survey of younger and mid-age women is shown in Table 1. Table 2 shows how combinations of responses to the relevant survey items were allocated to each category for smoking status.

**Table 1 Number and percent in AIHW smoking status categories at Survey 2**

| <b>Code</b> | <b>Smoking status - AIHW</b> | <b>Younger</b> |                | <b>Mid-age</b> |                |
|-------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|             |                              | <b>Number</b>  | <b>Percent</b> | <b>Number</b>  | <b>Percent</b> |
| 1           | Never smoker                 | 5 509          | 57.2           | 6 509          | 56.4           |
| 2           | Ex-smoker                    | 1 390          | 14.4           | 3 054          | 26.4           |
| 3           | Irregular smoker             | 569            | 5.9            | 158            | 1.4            |
| 4           | Weekly smoker                | 299            | 3.1            | 112            | 1.0            |
| 5           | Daily smoker                 | 1 873          | 19.4           | 1 712          | 14.8           |
|             | <b>Total classified</b>      | <b>9 640</b>   | <b>100.0</b>   | <b>11 545</b>  | <b>100.0</b>   |
| 9           | <i>Missing</i>               | 45             | 0.5            | 103            | 0.9            |

**Table 2 Assignment to AIHW smoking status at Survey 2 by combinations of current smoking and lifetime consumption of at least 100 cigarettes**

| Smoking status   | Current smoking                 | Ever smoked 100 cigarettes | Younger | Mid-age |
|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------|---------|
| Never smoker     | Not at all                      | No                         | 5 509   | 6 509   |
| Ex-smoker        | Not at all                      | Yes                        | 1 390   | 3 054   |
| Irregular smoker | Less often than weekly          | Yes                        | 412     | 142     |
|                  |                                 | No                         | 151     | 14      |
|                  |                                 | Missing                    | 6       | 2       |
| Weekly smoker    | At least weekly (but not daily) | Yes                        | 274     | 104     |
|                  |                                 | No                         | 21      | 3       |
|                  |                                 | Missing                    | 4       | 5       |
| Daily smoker     | Daily                           | Not applicable             | 1 797   | 1 119   |
|                  |                                 | Missing                    | 76      |         |
|                  |                                 | Yes                        |         | 589     |
|                  |                                 | No                         |         | 4       |
| Missing          | Missing                         | Missing                    | 25      | 82      |
|                  |                                 | Yes                        | 4       | 4       |
|                  |                                 | Not at all                 | Missing | 16      |

The SAS code defining smoking status at Survey 2 is:

```

/*Preliminary code for Mid-age */;
    if m2survey=2 then smkAIHW = . ;
else if m2survey = 1 then do ;
/* Smoking status based on AIHW definition */;
    if SMOK1 in (9,.) then smkAIHW = 9 ;
else if SMOK1 = 4 then do ;
    if SMOK2 = 2 then smkAIHW = 1 ;
    else if SMOK2 = 1 then smkAIHW = 2 ;
    else if SMOK2 = . then smkAIHW = . ;
    end ;
else if SMOK1 = 3 then smkAIHW = 3 ;
else if SMOK1 = 2 then smkAIHW = 4 ;
else if SMOK1 = 1 then smkAIHW = 5 ;

```

**References**

1. National Centres for Monitoring Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes. *Standard Questions on the Use of Tobacco Among Adults (self- and interviewer administered versions)* Canberra (ACT): Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; 1998
2. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. *National Health Data Dictionary. Version 9.* AIHW Catalogue no. HWI 24. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; 2000