

YOUTH AND SMOKING

Quick Facts

- 18% of Alberta teens (12 to 19 years old) smoked in 2001.¹
- Young Albertans aged 20 to 24 years are most likely to be current smokers (smoking daily or occasionally), at 30%.²
- The highest proportion of occasional smokers (9%), in Alberta, are found among the young adults age 20 to 24 years.²
- 65% of Albertans who have ever smoked a cigarette said that they had smoked their first cigarette by age 16.²
- Typically, experimentation with smoking begins between the ages of 12 and 16.²
- Youth in Alberta get their cigarettes from both commercial sources (such as tobacco retailers, Internet vendors, and vending machines),³⁻⁶ and non-commercial or social sources (such as parents, siblings and other family members, friends, acquaintances, and even strangers).⁴