

## **Question on Notice**

**Is there any data in relation to a micro breakdown by geographical area and also age grouping as well?**

Response: The National Drug Strategy Household Survey dataset should be able to generate results on use of tobacco products and specifically use of illicitly traded tobacco products by age and by geographic groupings based on State of residence, Remoteness Area (RA), Statistical Area levels 1–4 (SA1–SA4). However, there are sometimes restrictions on the use of the data when breaking down results into multiple variables. For example, deidentification and protection of anonymity of respondents requires the AIHW to enforce some restrictions on the data that are released when there are only a few people in particular combinations of categories (so that no one can work out from the data who the respondent may be). Whether there are sufficient responses to reliably generate results broken down by multiple variable levels (e.g. age by remoteness by state) will also place some limitations on whether it is appropriate to do very fine micro-breakdowns.

The ITC Project dataset can also generate results by state and by age grouping, and other geographic factors such as metropolitan or regional. We have data collected on use of illicitly traded tobacco in that data. Similar considerations to the NDSHS dataset concerning small samples once the data are cut by multiple demographic variables is a consideration as to what level of breakdown is appropriate.

I am sure that the NSW Population Health Survey could provide data on smoking broken down by different demographic factors, but the 2024 questionnaire doesn't appear to include any specific questions about use of illicitly traded tobacco products.

Our research centre would be happy to discuss further what is possible with the data available if the NSW Government would like to commission a research report.

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