

TOBACCO USE SECTION FROM STEPs SURVEY REPORT 2018 – This section of the report is final, other parts of the total report is still to be finalized thus I have not included the full report but just the section 4.2 Tobacco Use which has been finalized.

## 4.2 Tobacco use

This section elaborates on tobacco consumption status, levels and patterns in the Solomon Islands. The questionnaire asked whether they smoked tobacco products and were then categorized into the following:

- Current smokers – those who currently smoke any tobacco products (such as cigarettes, cigars or pipes).
- Current daily smokers – those who currently smoke tobacco products daily.
- Current non-daily smokers – those who currently smoke tobacco products but not daily.
- Current smokeless tobacco users – those who currently used smokeless tobacco products (such as snuff, chewing tobacco or betel).
- Current daily smokeless tobacco users – those who currently used smokeless tobacco products daily.
- Current non-daily smokeless tobacco users – those who currently used smokeless tobacco products but not daily.
- Current tobacco users – those who currently used smoking and smokeless tobacco products.

Table 8 shows that more than one third of the Solomon population (37.3%, 95%CI= 33.2-41.3) were current smokers.

Significantly more men (55.9%, 95%CI= 50.4-61.5) than women (21.2%, 95%CI= 17.6-24.9) were current smokers – more than twice the proportion of men than women.

There was no statistically significant difference in smoking prevalence between the three age groups.

**Table 1. Percentage of current smokers**

Percentage of current smokers									
Age Group (years)	Men			Women			Both Sexes		
	n	% Current smoker	95% CI	n	% Current smoker	95% CI	n	% Current smoker	95% CI
18-29	263	60.6	54.3-67.0	350	22.0	15.1-28.8	613	39.9	35.1-44.7
30-44	380	57.0	48.3-65.6	587	21.9	17.5-26.4	967	36.7	31.8-41.6
45-69	419	49.4	39.0-59.9	401	18.9	12.3-25.6	820	34.8	26.0-43.6
<b>18-69</b>	1062	55.9	50.4-61.5	1338	21.2	17.6-24.9	2400	37.3	33.2-41.3

Table 9 shows that most men (50.2%, 95%CI= 44.5-55.9) were current daily smokers, 5.7% (95%CI= 4.2-7.2) were current non-daily smokers, and 44.1% (95%CI= 38.5-49.6) did not smoke any tobacco products.

There was no statistically significant difference between the three age groups.

**Table 2. Smoking status among men**

Smoking status							
Age Group (years)	n	Men				% Does not smoke	95% CI
		Current smoker		% Non-daily			
		% Daily	95% CI	% Non-daily	95% CI		
18-29	263	54.0	47.8-60.1	6.7	3.5-9.9	39.4	33.0-45.7
30-44	380	52.0	44.0-60.1	4.9	2.4-7.5	43.0	34.3-51.6
45-69	419	43.8	32.8-54.8	5.7	3.4-8.0	50.7	40.3-61.2
<b>18-69</b>	1062	50.2	44.5-55.9	5.7	4.2-7.2	44.1	38.5-49.6

Table 10 shows that the majority of women were non-smokers – 78.8% (95%CI= 75.1-82.4) did not smoke, 17.2% (95%CI= 14.2-20.3) current daily smokers and 4.0% (95%CI=2.7-5.3) were current non-daily smokers.

There was no statistically significant difference between the three age groups.

**Table 3. Smoking status among women**

Smoking status							
Women							
Age Group (years)	n	Current smoker				% Does not smoke	95% CI
		% Daily	95% CI	% Non- daily	95% CI		
18-29	350	16.2	9.9-22.4	5.8	3.4-8.3	78.0	71.2-84.8
30-44	587	18.3	14.7-21.9	3.6	1.5-5.7	78.1	73.6-82.6
45-69	401	16.7	10.3-23.2	2.2	0.6-3.8	81.1	74.4-87.7
<b>18-69</b>	1338	17.2	14.2-20.3	4.0	2.7-5.3	78.8	75.1-82.4

Table 11 shows that more than half overall indicated that they were non-smokers – 62.7% (95%CI= 58.6-66.8) did not smoke, 32.5% (95%CI= 28.6-36.4) were current daily smokers and 4.8% (95%CI= 3.8-5.8) were current non-daily smokers.

There was no statistically significant difference between the three age groups.

Significantly more men than women were current daily smokers whilst significantly more women than men were non-smokers (compare tables 9 and 10).

**Table 4. Smoking status, both sexes combined**

Smoking status							
Both Sexes							
Age Group (years)	n	Current smoker				% Does not smoke	95% CI
		% Daily	95% CI	% Non- daily	95% CI		
18-29	613	33.7	29.0-38.4	6.2	4.3-8.1	60.1	55.3-64.9
30-44	967	32.5	28.2-36.8	4.2	2.4-5.9	63.3	58.4-68.2
45-69	820	30.9	22.0-39.8	4.0	2.5-5.5	65.2	56.4-74.0
<b>18-69</b>	2400	32.5	28.6-36.4	4.8	3.8-5.8	62.7	58.7-66.8

Table 12 shows that among current smokers, 86.1% (95%CI= 83.2-89.0) smoke daily – 88.8% (95%CI= 85.7-91.9) of men and 80.1% (95%CI= 75.0-85.1) of women. Slightly more male smokers than female smokers smoked daily.

There was no statistically significant difference between the three age groups.

**Table 5. Percentage of current smokers who smoke daily**

Current daily smokers among smokers									
Age Group (years)	Men			Women			Both Sexes		
	n	% Daily smokers	95% CI	n	% Daily smokers	95% CI	n	% Daily smokers	95% CI
18-29	174	86.6	81.0-92.2	78	73.0	62.0-83.9	252	82.5	77.5-87.6
30-44	243	90.7	86.7-94.8	126	82.3	74.1-90.5	369	87.9	83.8-92.0
45-69	198	89.0	83.7-94.2	76	87.3	78.8-95.7	274	88.5	83.7-93.4
<b>18-69</b>	615	88.8	85.7-91.9	280	80.1	75.0-85.1	895	86.1	83.2-89.0

Table 13 shows that the mean age of initiating smoking among current daily smokers was 18.5 (95%CI= 17.7-19.4) years. Male smokers started smoking at an earlier age (17.7 years, 95%CI= 16.7-18.8) than female smokers (20.5 years, 95%CI= 19.9-21.2), and the difference was statistically significant.

Overall, the 18-29 year olds started smoking at an earlier age (16.7 years, 95%CI= 16.3-17.2) than the 30-44 year olds (19.2 years, 95%CI= 18.3-20.1), and the difference was statistically significant.

**Table 6. Mean age started smoking among current daily smokers**

Mean age started smoking									
Age Group (years)	Men			Women			Both Sexes		
	n	Mean age	95% CI	n	Mean age	95% CI	n	Mean age	95% CI
18-29	142	16.3	15.6-16.9	52	18.0	17.2-18.8	194	16.7	16.3-17.2
30-44	217	18.1	16.9-19.4	97	21.7	20.7-22.7	314	19.2	18.3-20.1
45-69	164	19.1	15.2-23.0	54	21.9	19.7-24.1	218	19.8	16.6-23.0
<b>18-69</b>	523	17.7	16.7-18.8	203	20.5	19.9-21.2	726	18.5	17.7-19.4

Table 14 shows that the mean duration of smoking among current daily smokers was 18.0 years – 18.7 years (95%CI= 16.0-21.4) for men and 16.0 years (95%CI= 12.6-19.5) for women; and 7.1 years (95%CI= 6.5-7.6) for those aged 18-29, 16.9 years (95%CI= 16.2-17.7) for those aged 30-44 and 34.4 years (95%CI= 30.4-38.4) for those aged 45-69.

There was a statistically significant difference in mean duration of smoking between all three age groups but no statistically significant difference between men and women.

**Table 7. Mean duration of smoking among current daily smokers**

Mean duration of smoking									
Age Group (years)	Men			Women			Both Sexes		
	n	Mean duration	95% CI	n	Mean duration	95% CI	n	Mean duration	95% CI
18-29	142	7.4	6.5-8.2	52	6.2	5.0-7.4	194	7.1	6.5-7.6
30-44	217	18.1	17.3-18.9	97	14.3	12.9-15.6	314	16.9	16.2-17.7
45-69	164	34.6	30.9-38.2	54	33.9	28.2-39.6	218	34.4	30.4-38.4
<b>18-69</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>16.0-21.4</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>12.6-19.5</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>15.3-20.7</b>

Table 15 shows that the majority (74.9%, 95%CI= 69.8-80.1) of current daily smokers smoked manufactured cigarettes – 76.0% (95%CI= 70.2-81.7) of male current daily smokers and 72.4% (95%CI= 60.7-84.1) of female current daily smokers.

Overall, significantly more 18-29 (82.3%, 95%CI= 75.7-88.8) and 30-44 year old smokers (77.4%, 95%CI= 70.4-84.5) smoked manufactured cigarettes than those aged 45-69 (61.1%, 95%CI= 53.3-69.0).

**Table 8. Percentage of current daily smokers who smoked manufactured cigarettes**

Manufactured cigarette smokers among current daily smokers									
Age Group (years)	Men			Women			Both Sexes		
	n	% Manufactured cigarette smoker	95% CI	n	% Manufactured cigarette smoker	95% CI	n	% Manufactured cigarette smoker	95% CI
18-29	148	80.0	73.2-86.8	55	88.5	77.5-99.4	203	82.3	75.7-88.8
30-44	218	79.5	71.4-87.5	98	73.2	61.0-85.4	316	77.4	70.4-84.5
45-69	167	65.6	51.8-79.4	61	48.2	26.9-69.5	228	61.1	53.3-69.0
<b>18-69</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>76.0</b>	<b>70.2-81.7</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>72.4</b>	<b>60.7-84.1</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>74.9</b>	<b>69.8-80.1</b>

Table 16 shows that the mean amount of tobacco used by current daily smokers were: 4.5 (95%CI= 4.0-5.1) manufactured cigarettes, 2.8 (95%CI= 2.4-3.2) hand-rolled cigarettes, 0.5 (95%CI= 0.4-0.6) piped tobacco, 1.4 (95%CI= 0.8-1.9) other cigars and 1.0 (95%CI= 0.7-1.2) of other types of tobacco.

Women who are daily smokers consume on average less cigarettes per day than men,. Please see Appendix 2 for details.

**Table 9. Mean amount of tobacco used by current daily smokers by type and age, both sexes combined**

Mean amount of tobacco used by current daily smokers by type												
Both Sexes												
Age Grp (yrs)	n	Mean # of manu- factured cig.	95% CI	n	Mean #of hand- rolled cig.	95% CI	n	Mean # of pipes of tobacco	95% CI	n	Mean # of other cigars	95% CI
18-29	202	4.5	3.8-5.2	200	2.9	2.3-3.4	153	0.1	0.0-0.2	82	1.0	0.4-1.7
30-44	314	4.7	3.9-5.6	314	2.8	2.4-3.2	236	0.7	0.5-1.0	134	1.2	0.6-1.8
45-69	227	4.3	3.2-5.3	231	2.8	1.6-4.0	169	0.6	0.3-1.0	91	2.1	1.1-3.2
<b>18-69</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.0-5.1</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.4-3.2</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.4-0.6</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.8-1.9</b>

Both Sexes			
Age Grp (yrs)	n	Mean # of other type of tobacco	95% CI
18-29	182	0.8	0.6-1.1
30-44	279	1.0	0.6-1.3
45-69	207	1.1	0.5-1.7
<b>18-69</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.7-1.2</b>

Table 17 shows that overall, 7.2% (95%CI= 5.7-8.7) were ex-daily smokers. Significantly more men were ex-daily smokers – 10.5% (95%CI= 7.6-13.5) of men and 4.5% (95%CI= 2.9-6.1) of women.

There was no statistically significant difference between the three age groups.

**Table 10. Percentage of ex-daily smokers**

Ex-daily smokers									
Age Group (years)	Men			Women			Both Sexes		
	n	% ex daily smokers	95% CI	n	% ex daily smokers	95% CI	n	% ex daily smokers	95% CI
18-29	234	7.5	4.1-10.9	342	3.3	1.1-5.6	576	5.2	3.2-7.2
30-44	335	12.3	6.1-18.5	568	4.3	2.6-6.0	903	7.5	4.7-10.3
45-69	399	11.6	7.7-15.5	388	6.6	2.6-10.7	787	9.2	6.5-11.9
<b>18-69</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>7.6-13.5</b>	<b>1298</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>2.9-6.1</b>	<b>2266</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>5.7-8.7</b>

Table 18 shows that overall, 3.5% (95%CI= 1.9-5.2) were current users of smokeless tobacco (e.g. snuff, chewing tobacco or betel) – 4.2% (95%CI= 1.3-7.1) of men and 3.0% (95%CI= 1.2-4.8) of women.

There were no statistically significant differences between men and women and between the age groups.

**Table 11. Percentage of current users of smokeless tobacco**

Current users of smokeless tobacco									
Age Group (years)	Men			Women			Both Sexes		
	n	% Current users	95% CI	n	% Current users	95% CI	n	% Current users	95% CI
18-29	273	3.8	1.4-6.3	356	2.9	0.8-4.9	629	3.3	1.9-4.8
30-44	392	7.0	0.5-13.5	595	1.9	0.6-3.2	987	4.1	1.3-6.9
45-69	430	1.0	0.1-1.9	406	5.1	0.0-10.4	836	2.9	0.4-5.5
<b>18-69</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>1.3-7.1</b>	<b>1357</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>1.2-4.8</b>	<b>2452</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>1.9-5.2</b>

Table 19 shows that most Solomon Islanders (96.5%, 95%CI= 94.8-98.1) do not use smokeless tobacco.

There were no statistically significant differences between men and women and between the three age groups. Please see Appendix 2 for details.

**Table 12. Status of smokeless tobacco use**

Smokeless tobacco use							
Both Sexes							
Age Group (years)	n	Current user				% Does not use smokeless tobacco	95% CI
		% Daily	95% CI	% Non- daily	95% CI		
18-29	627	1.2	0.3-2.1	2.1	0.8-3.5	96.7	95.2-98.1
30-44	984	2.5	0.0-5.2	1.6	0.6-2.7	95.9	93.0-98.7
45-69	834	1.7	0.0-4.1	1.3	0.1-2.4	97.1	94.5-99.6
<b>18-69</b>	2445	1.8	0.5-3.2	1.7	1.0-2.4	96.5	94.8-98.1

Table 20 shows that more than one third of the population (38.1%, 95%CI= 34.2-41.9) were current tobacco users (smoking and smokeless). Significantly more men (56.4%, 95%CI= 51.0-61.9) than women (22.3%, 95%CI= 18.5-26.0) were current tobacco users – more than twice the proportion.

There was no statistically significant difference between the three age groups.

**Table 13. Percentage of current tobacco users (smoking and smokeless)**

Current tobacco users									
Age Group (years)	Men			Women			Both Sexes		
	n	% Current users	95% CI	n	% Current users	95% CI	n	% Current users	95% CI
18-29	261	61.0	54.6-67.3	350	23.2	16.0-30.3	611	40.6	35.6-45.6
30-44	379	58.0	49.2-66.7	585	21.8	17.4-26.2	964	37.1	32.2-42.0
45-69	419	49.5	39.1-59.8	400	21.9	14.2-29.6	819	36.4	27.7-45.0
<b>18-69</b>	1059	56.4	51.0-61.9	1335	22.3	18.5-26.0	2394	38.1	34.2-41.9

Table 21 shows that 32.8% (95%CI= 29.0-36.6) of the population were daily tobacco users. Significantly more men (50.2%, 95%CI= 44.5-55.8) than women (17.9%, 95%CI= 14.6-21.1) were daily tobacco users.

There was no statistically significant difference between the three age groups.

**Table 14. Percentage of daily tobacco users (smoking and smokeless)**

Daily tobacco users									
Age Group (years)	Men			Women			Both Sexes		
	n	% Daily users	95% CI	n	% Daily users	95% CI	n	% Daily users	95% CI
18-29	261	53.6	47.4-59.9	350	17.0	10.4-23.5	611	33.9	29.0-38.8
30-44	379	52.3	44.3-60.3	585	17.8	14.5-21.1	964	32.4	28.1-36.6
45-69	419	43.7	32.8-54.7	400	19.3	12.0-26.7	819	32.1	23.4-40.9
<b>18-69</b>	1059	50.2	44.5-55.8	1335	17.9	14.6-21.1	2394	32.8	29.0-36.6

Table 22 shows that there are high rates of exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS). More than half overall (65.6%, 95%CI= 62.1-69.1) have been exposed to ETS in homes in the past 7 days – 69.2% (95%CI= 64.3-74.2) of men and 62.4% (95%CI= 58.8-66.1) of women.

There were no statistically significant differences between men and women and between the three age groups.

**Table 15. Percentage who reported exposure to environmental tobacco smoke in homes in the past 7 days**

Exposed to ETS in home on 1 or more of the past 7 days									
Age Group (years)	Men			Women			Both Sexes		
	n	% Exposed	95% CI	n	% Exposed	95% CI	n	% Exposed	95% CI
18-29	271	74.3	68.5-80.2	356	60.0	52.3-67.6	627	66.7	61.7-71.7
30-44	391	65.2	55.9-74.4	593	63.1	58.3-67.8	984	64.0	58.6-69.3
45-69	430	68.6	60.9-76.4	405	64.8	58.6-71.1	835	66.8	60.8-72.8
<b>18-69</b>	1092	69.2	64.3-74.2	1354	62.4	58.8-66.1	2446	65.6	62.1-69.1

Table 23 shows that 53.6% (95%CI= 48.5-58.7) overall reported exposure to ETS in the workplace in the past 7 days – 57.1% (95%CI= 50.8-63.5) of men and 50.5% (95%CI= 45.2-55.7) of women.

There were no statistically significant differences between men and women and between the three age groups.

**Table 16. Percentage who reported exposure to ETS in the workplace in the past 7 days**

<b>Exposed to ETS in the workplace on 1 or more of the past 7 days</b>									
Age Group (years)	<b>Men</b>			<b>Women</b>			<b>Both Sexes</b>		
	n	% Exposed	95% CI	n	% Exposed	95% CI	n	% Exposed	95% CI
18-29	226	59.1	52.2-66.0	290	50.7	41.4-60.1	516	54.6	47.8-61.5
30-44	351	64.4	57.0-71.9	518	51.5	45.9-57.0	869	57.0	52.0-62.0
45-69	371	46.1	34.6-57.7	329	48.1	39.6-56.5	700	47.0	38.0-56.0
<b>18-69</b>	948	57.1	50.8-63.5	1137	50.5	45.2-55.7	2085	53.6	48.5-58.7