

# #WhatsYourTake - Tobacco free Scotland

## July 2022



The #WhatsYourTake online survey is carried out each year to gather young people's views on current issues. This #WhatsYourTake survey was open from 10<sup>th</sup> June until 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022, and asked questions on the following topics:

- **Children's care and justice** - Imagining the future of children's care and justice
- **Reducing car use** - Working together to reduce car use for a healthier, fairer, greener Scotland
- **Cost of school** - Exploring the possibility of free school meals, school milk and low-cost uniform in secondary schools
- **Tobacco free Scotland** - Reaching for the future - building a Tobacco-free Scotland
- **Education** - Designing the national discussion on education
- **Children's Services** - Children's Services Reform

This report gives an overview of the key findings on the questions relating to tobacco free Scotland from the July 2022 #WhatsYourTake survey.

## Respondent Profile

243 young people took responded to the #WhatsYourTake survey in July 2022.

*Of these:*

- **67.8%** are aged between 12 and 17, **16.7%** are aged 18-20, and **15.5%** are aged 21-25.
- **52.5%** identify as female, **35.3%** identify as male, **8.0%** identify as non-binary, and **3.4%** prefer to use their own term. The remaining respondents preferred not to say.
- **60.2%** are at school, **21.4%** go to university or college, **18.1%** are in full time or part time work, **0.8%** are doing an apprenticeship or other training, and **5.3%** are unemployed. **2.1%** are not taking part in any of these activities.
- **81.5%** identify as English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British.
- Respondents came from **28 local authorities**, [our 11 national voluntary organisations](#), and various others representing a diverse range of communities of interest and lived experience (including youth voice organisations, student unions, a range of cadets, and various sports clubs).

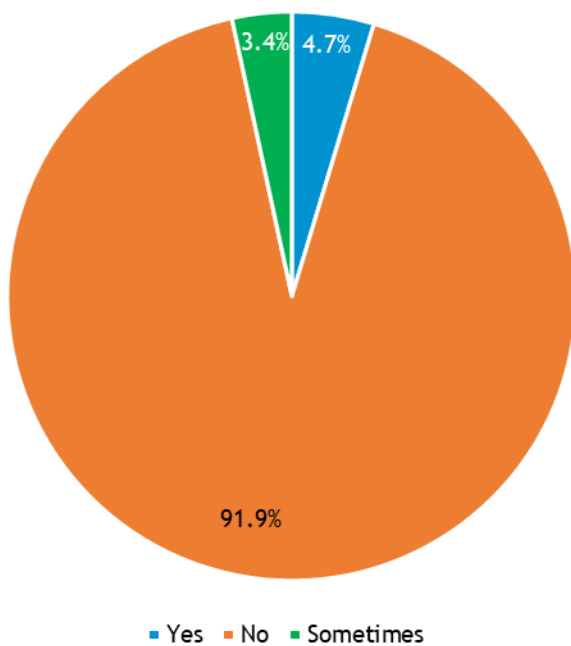
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# Reaching for the future - building a Tobacco-free Scotland

The Scottish Government is developing the next Tobacco Action Plan for Scotland and we need your ideas. We hope to have 5% or lower smoking rates in Scotland by 2034 so that the next generation will truly be tobacco-free. Currently, we are expecting to miss our target by 16 years and there is a health inequalities gap where the most disadvantaged in society are more likely to smoke. We need radical action - 1 in 2 people who smoke will die as a result of their smoking.

We hope to hear your views on how we can make sure that young people never take up smoking, how we should support those who do to quit and how we make sure that we find ways to support the most disadvantaged in society to quit.

## Do you smoke?



## Why did you start smoking?

Very few young people responded to this question. Therefore, the table below shows the number of respondents rather than percentages.

Two young people responded 'other', and commented:

- When drinking
- It was a rebellious thing to do when I was at school, then I quickly became addicted.

It's normal	0
I was bored	0
Someone in my family does it	1
My friends do it	2
It looked cool	3
I don't know	3
It helps me get breaks at work	4
I just like it	7
It helps me reduce food cravings	8
It helps me manage my stress	12

## Why do you not smoke?

Young people who responded 'other' commented:

- I hate the smell of cigarettes
- I generally hate the idea of smoking.
- I can't stand the smell
- Doesn't appeal
- Because I'm only 14
- Tried it but it tasted awful and stinks.
- I'm 14
- Am too young and I don't want to
- I never wanted to
- I am too young and it is bad for me and everyone else and the earth
- It's disgusting and I have no reason to
- It's just not something I've ever really wanted to do.
- I would never
- I do smoke sometimes when drinking. I used to smoke all the time though & these are the reasons I stopped all the time
- I got pneumonia and smoking definitely contributed to how severe it was. I could have died.
- i don't like the taste
- Not good for me
- i just don't want to
- Its not something I'm interested in
- I don't want to
- It doesn't appeal to me in any way
- exposed to the damage of it from use by other family members
- I saw my nan die from smoking
- and it forbidden in my religion.
- I have no reason to
- I'm twelve and want to live past 40
- I have no interest in smoking. No one I know smokes.
- I don't want to be addicted to anything. I know what that can do to people.
- Horrible smell
- My mum used to smoke and it has caused her to develop asthma and COPD(a lung condition caused by smoking, it means that she has holes in her lungs) i will never smoke because i have witnessed what my mum goes through everyday and how smoking has ruined her lungs forever.
- I've never felt any desire to
- I don't understand what the point is
- Some of My family used to and it put me off it
- I saw no reason to start
- Not old enough
- It tastes bad

It's not good for my health	77.0%
It's bad for other people's health	52.7%
It's unattractive	47.3%
It's bad for the environment	38.3%
It's expensive	35.8%
My family doesn't like it	27.6%
My friends don't like it	11.5%
I can't get cigarettes or tobacco easily	8.6%
I don't know	4.1%
It's hard to find places to smoke in	3.7%
I vape instead	3.3%
I did but I quit	2.1%