

# In a glimpse

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## Tobacco smoking and vaping among 18-75-year-olds in 2023

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The French Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (OFDT), in partnership with *Santé publique France*, has revealed levels of tobacco use by region among the adult population in mainland France.

This study complements the findings of the OFDT's national survey published in November 2024 by also providing a detailed breakdown of use according to the main socio-economic factors associated with tobacco smoking.

In 2023, a representative sample of 14 984 adults aged 18 to 75 living in mainland France was surveyed as part of the Survey on representations, opinions and perceptions regarding psychoactive drugs (EROPP), conducted by the OFDT since 1999.

## Tobacco smoking and vaping in 2023 and their trends according to socio-economic factors

Between 2021 and 2023, daily smoking declined: 23.1% of respondents smoked daily in 2023, compared with 25.3% in 2021. This was the lowest proportion of daily smokers since the late 1990s. This decline in daily smoking was particularly pronounced among unemployed individuals. Compared with 2021, the proportion of daily smokers among the unemployed fell by 10 percentage points (from 45.8% to 35.7%). Furthermore, people with no qualifications or with qualifications below A-level or high school diploma exhibited a significantly higher level of daily tobacco use (28.9%) compared to those with post-secondary qualifications (16.6%). Men were more likely than women to smoke daily (25.4% vs 20.9%).

The proportion of adults who reported having vaped at least once in their lifetime almost doubled over nine years, rising from 25.7% in 2014 to 41.8%. In 2023, current vaping concerned 8.3% of adults aged 18 to 75, most often in the form of daily use (6.1% of 18- to 75-year-olds), affecting all categories of the French adult population. Men were more likely than women to vape daily (6.8% compared with 5.4%).

## Territorial inequalities in tobacco smoking and vaping

Four regions stood out in terms of the percentage of daily smokers: Île-de-France and Brittany, where daily smoking was the lowest in mainland France (19.6% and 19.5% respectively), and the regions of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (PACA) and Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, which, by contrast, recorded the highest rates (26.5% and 26.8% respectively). In 2021, Île-de-France and PACA already stood out for having lower (Île-de-France) and higher (PACA) levels of daily smoking than the other regions of mainland France. In 2023, daily vaping was more common in two regions of mainland France: Brittany and Normandy (8.5% and 8.1% respectively). This particular pattern in Brittany had already been observed in 2021.

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Although regional specificities were apparent, many possible explanatory factors exist, including cultural aspects (perceptions of use), socio-economic conditions (living standards, means of supply), and local tobacco control and prevention policies.

- The EROPP survey in 2023 was based on interviews with a representative sample of 14 984 adults aged 18 to 75 living in mainland France.
- In 2023, over three out of ten people aged 18 to 75 reported smoking tobacco (31.1%), and 23.1% smoked daily. This represented the lowest prevalence of daily smoking recorded since the late 1990s.
- Daily smoking remained more prevalent among individuals reporting low incomes, those with the lowest levels of education and/or those who were unemployed.
- In 2023, current e-cigarette use affected 8.3% of adults aged 18 to 75, with 6.1% vaping daily.
- Daily smoking and vaping were reported by 2.1% of the population.
- The regions of Brittany and Île-de-France recorded the lowest daily smoking prevalence in mainland France (with daily use at 19.5% and 19.6% respectively), while Bourgogne-Franche-Comté and PACA reported the highest levels (26.8% and 26.5% respectively).
- Daily vaping was more common in Brittany and Normandy, with 8.5% and 8.1% of daily vapers respectively.