

Smoking tobacco is the leading cause of preventable illness and premature deaths in the UK, estimated by Public Health England to cost NHS England £2.6 billion per year (2015). It is also one of the most important drivers of health inequalities. Most related deaths are from lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and coronary heart disease. Smoking also increases the risk of developing other conditions including some cancers. The negative impact of passive smoking and smoking in pregnancy is well recognised.

### Why is this important?



Smoking tobacco is the leading cause of preventable illness and premature death in the UK.

### What is the local context?



Smoking rates are falling but 1 in 6 adults are current smokers in Torbay. Smoking is most common in men, particularly those working routine and manual occupations.

### What should we do?



Both support people to quit and remain smoke free, and protect others from passive smoking

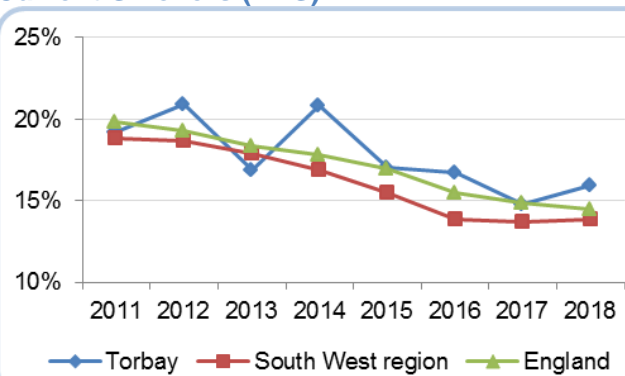
In Torbay, 1 in 6 adults aged 18 and over is a current smoker (16.0%), similar to the England average (14.4%) in 2018. The trend for smoking prevalence has declined since 2011, following a similar trajectory to England (Fig 2).

**Fig 1: Smoking Prevalence in adults (18+) – Current smokers in Torbay (2018)**



Source: Annual Population Survey

**Fig 2: Smoking Prevalence in adults (18+) – Current Smokers (APS)**

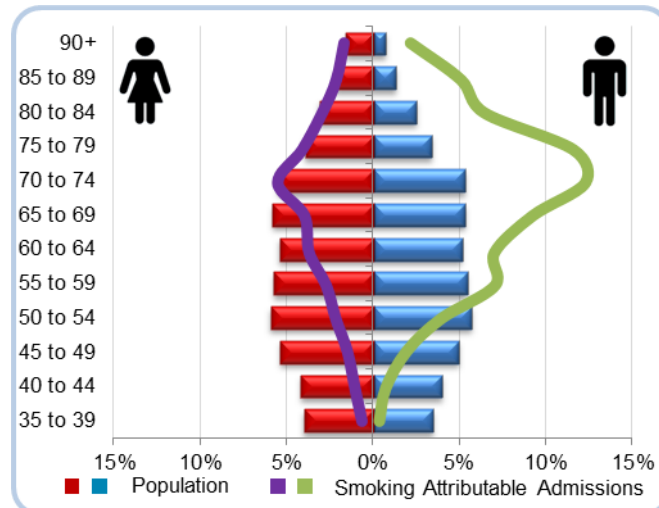


Source: Annual Population Survey

Since 2009/10 smoking attributable hospital admissions have been significantly higher in Torbay than the England average. For 2017/18, rates have fallen significantly in Torbay to a rate comparable with the England average. It is too early to ascertain if this is a one-off fall until data

for the next couple of years becomes available. These admissions are most common in men aged between 70 and 79 (Fig 3).

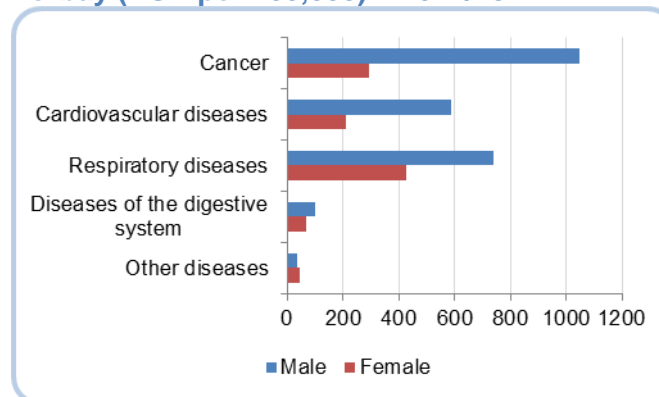
**Fig 3: Torbay Population & Smoking Attributable Admissions 2017/18**



Source: Hospital Episodes Statistics, MYE Population (ONS)

The most common smoking related disease affecting men in Torbay are cancers, and in women respiratory diseases (Fig 4).

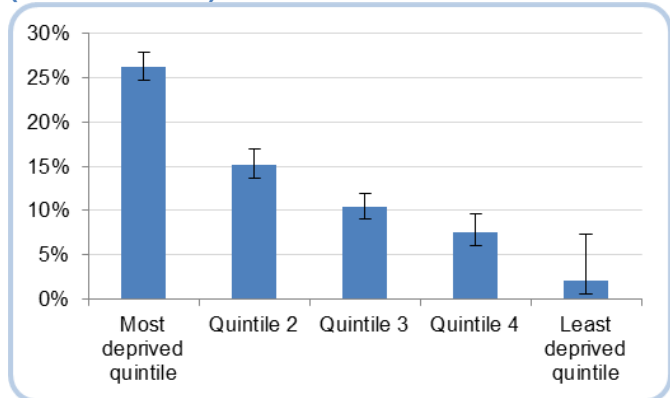
**Fig 4: Smoking attributable conditions, Torbay (DSR per 100,000) – 2017/18**



Source: Hospital Episodes Statistics

Smoking during pregnancy has damaging effects on the growth and development of the baby and the health of the mother. In 2017/18, 14.5% of women in Torbay continued to smoke during pregnancy (down from 20.9% in 2010/11), which is significantly higher when compared to the England average (10.8%) (PHE Local Tobacco Control Profile).

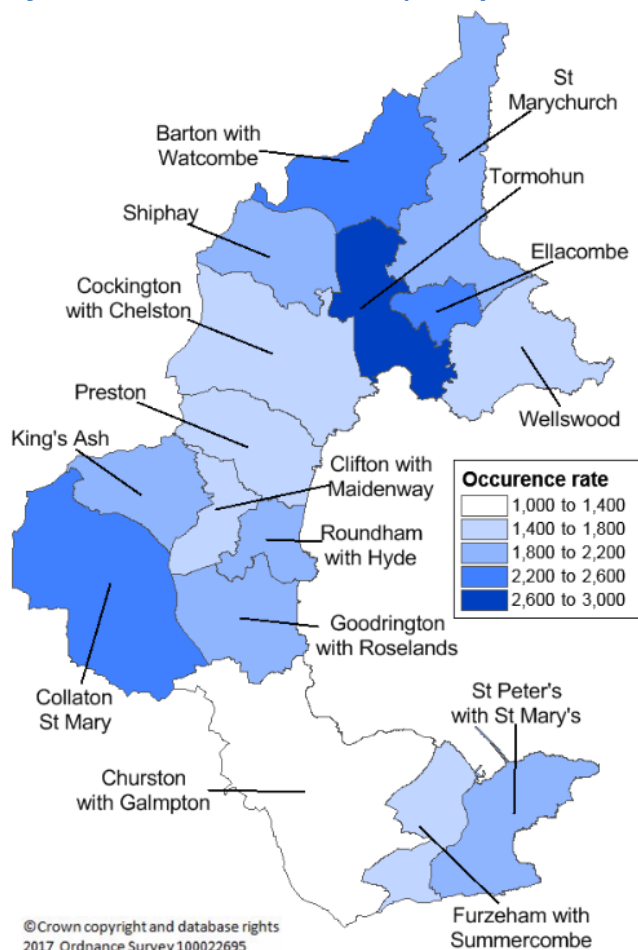
**Fig 5: % of pregnant women who are smokers (13/14 to 18/19)**



Source: Torbay & South Devon Healthcare Trust

The burden of smoking related disease is heavily influenced by gender and deprivation (Fig 7). Men in the most deprived communities are at the highest risk of harm. Therefore, reducing smoking related disease is an opportunity both to improve population health and to reduce health inequalities. There is a broad correlation between smoking attributable admissions rates and the more deprived wards within Torbay (Fig 6).

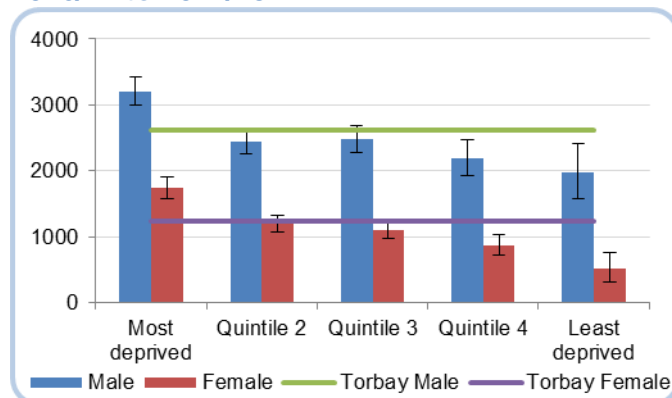
**Fig 6: Smoking attributable admission rates by ward, 2016/17 to 2017/18 (DSR per 100,000)**



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2017 Ordnance Survey 100022695

Source: Hospital Episodes Statistics, MYE Population (ONS)

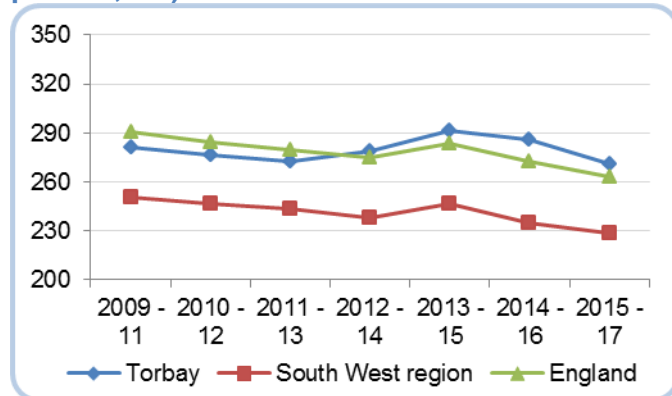
**Fig 7: Torbay smoking related admission rate by deprivation quintile (DSR per 100,000) 2016/17 to 2017/18**



Source: Hospital Episodes Statistics, MYE Population (ONS)

Smoking attributable mortality rates within Torbay are similar to those in England (Fig 8). Smoking is the leading cause of premature death in England, accounting for 78,000 deaths in 2017 (NHS Statistics on Smoking, England – 2019).

**Fig 8: Smoking attributable mortality (DSR per 100,000)**



Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework

## References and further information:

Local Tobacco Control Profiles

<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/tobacco-control>

Torbay and South Devon Stop Smoking Service

<https://www.torbayandsouthdevon.nhs.uk/services/healthy-lifestyles/stop-smoking/>

Adult Smoking Habits in the UK

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandlifeexpectancies/bulletins/adultsmokinghabitsingreatbritain/2018>

NHS Statistics on Smoking

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/statistics-on-smoking/statistics-on-smoking-england-2019>