

Driving progress further: Factors associated with never smoking tobacco among young Aboriginal people aged 16-24 years in the Next Generation Youth Wellbeing Study cohort

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Background

Young adult Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (hereafter Aboriginal) peoples drove a substantial reduction in adult daily tobacco smoking between 2002-2019. (1) Adolescence is a major milestone in relation to physical and emotional development and is perceived as the transition to adulthood. (2) Thus, it is a critical time point in the trajectory of future health and wellbeing. Using the baseline data from the Next Generation Youth Wellbeing Study, an Aboriginal-led youth cohort study, we contribute to the growing body of strength-based evidence highlighting the reduction in tobacco smoking among Aboriginal peoples in Australia.

Results

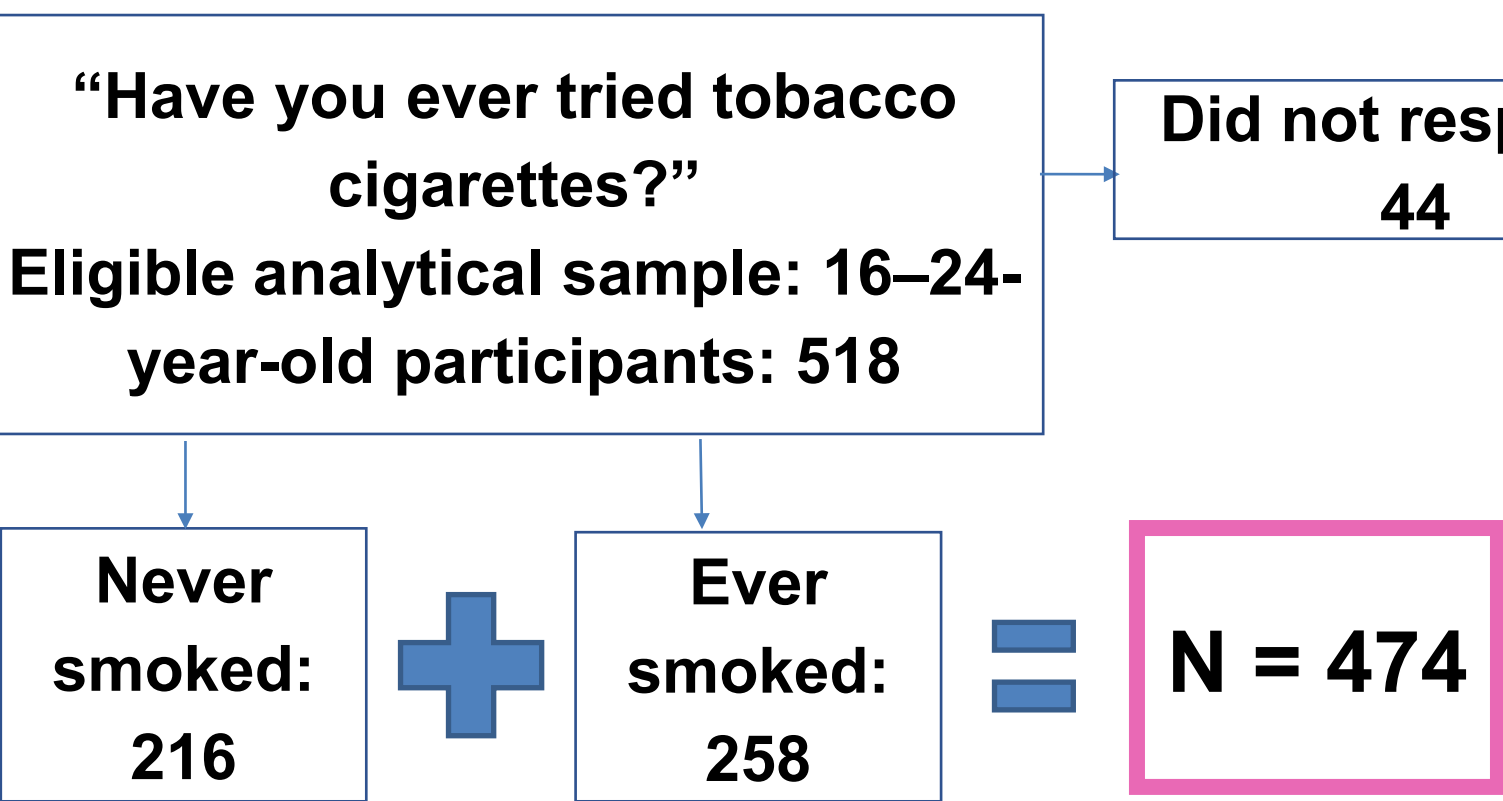


Figure 1: Participant recruitment

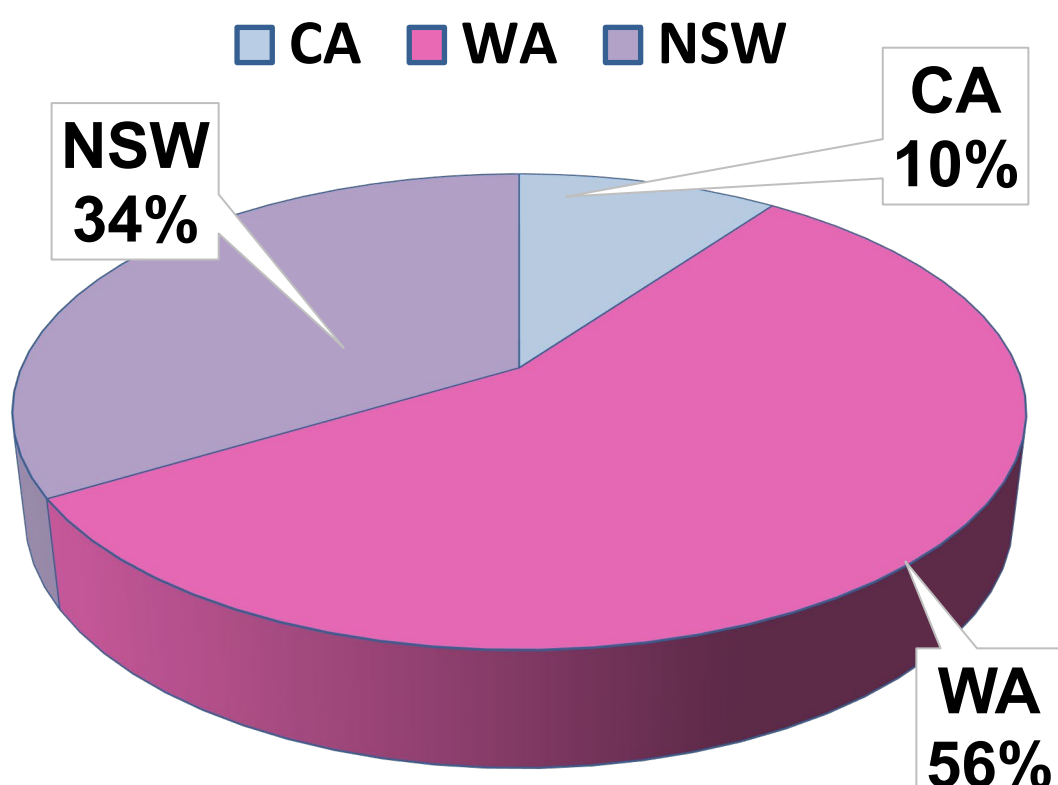


Figure 2: Distribution of participants by sites

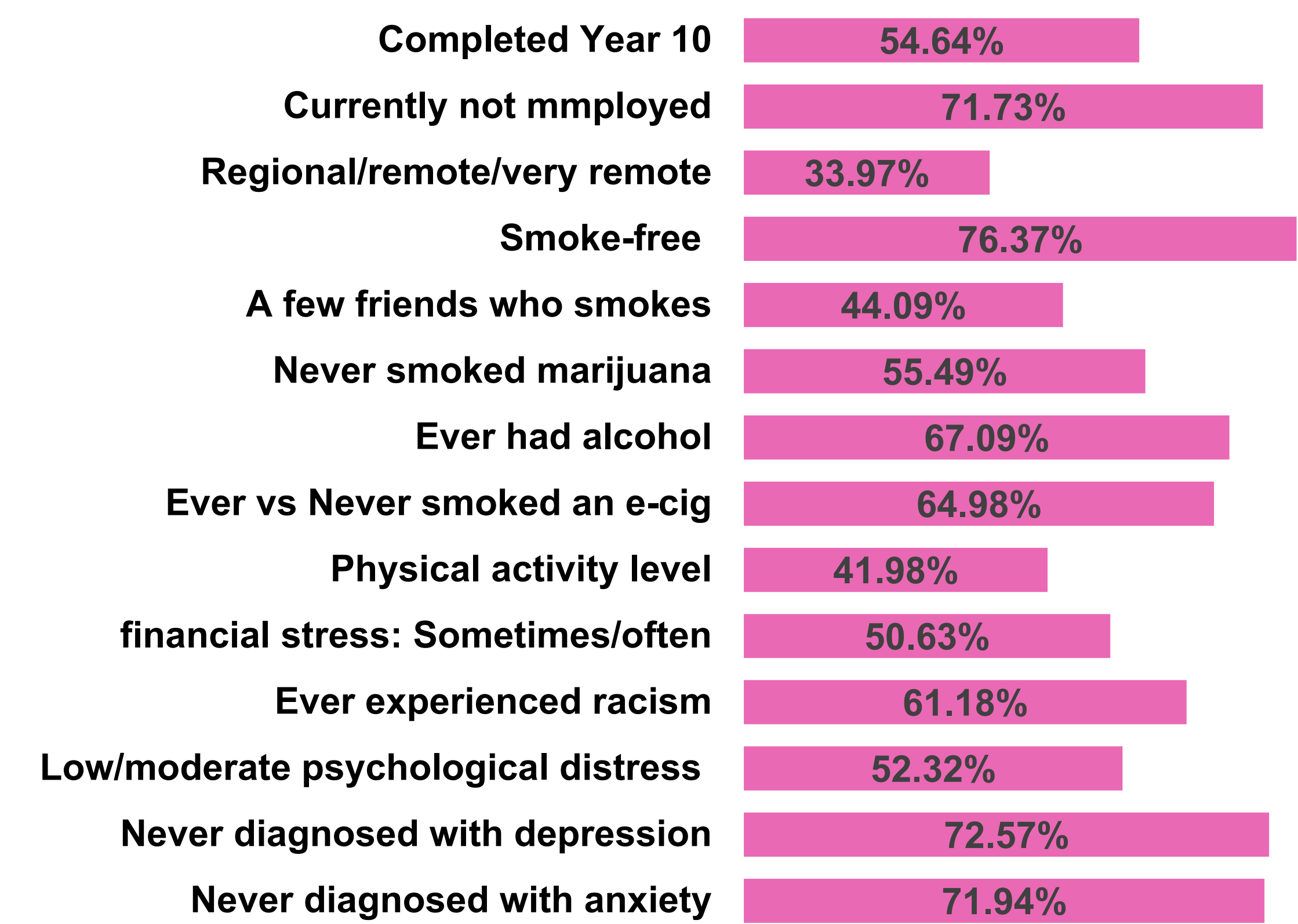


Figure 3: Participant characteristics (N=474)

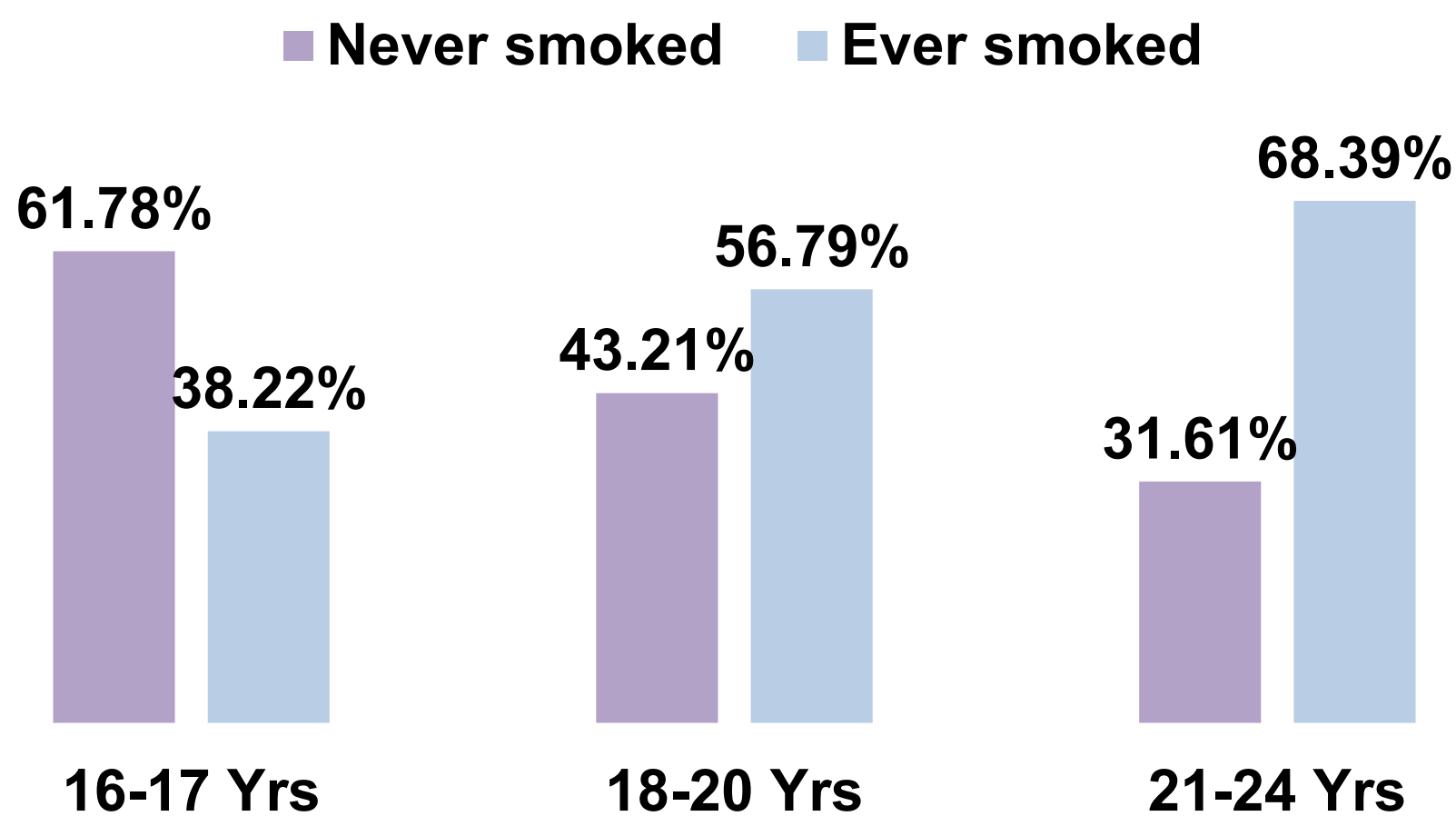


Figure 4: Never vs Ever smoking by Age (N=474)

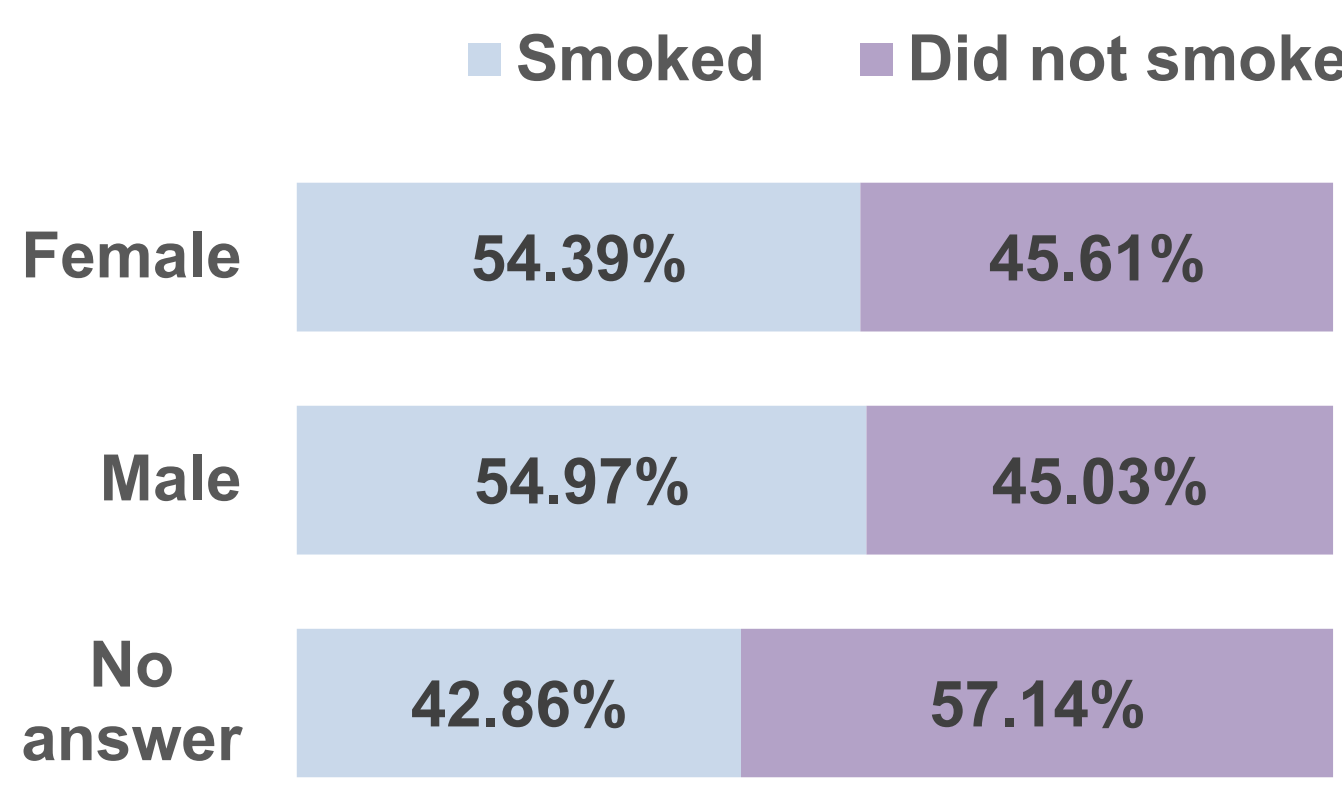


Figure 5: Never vs Ever smoking by Sex (N=474)

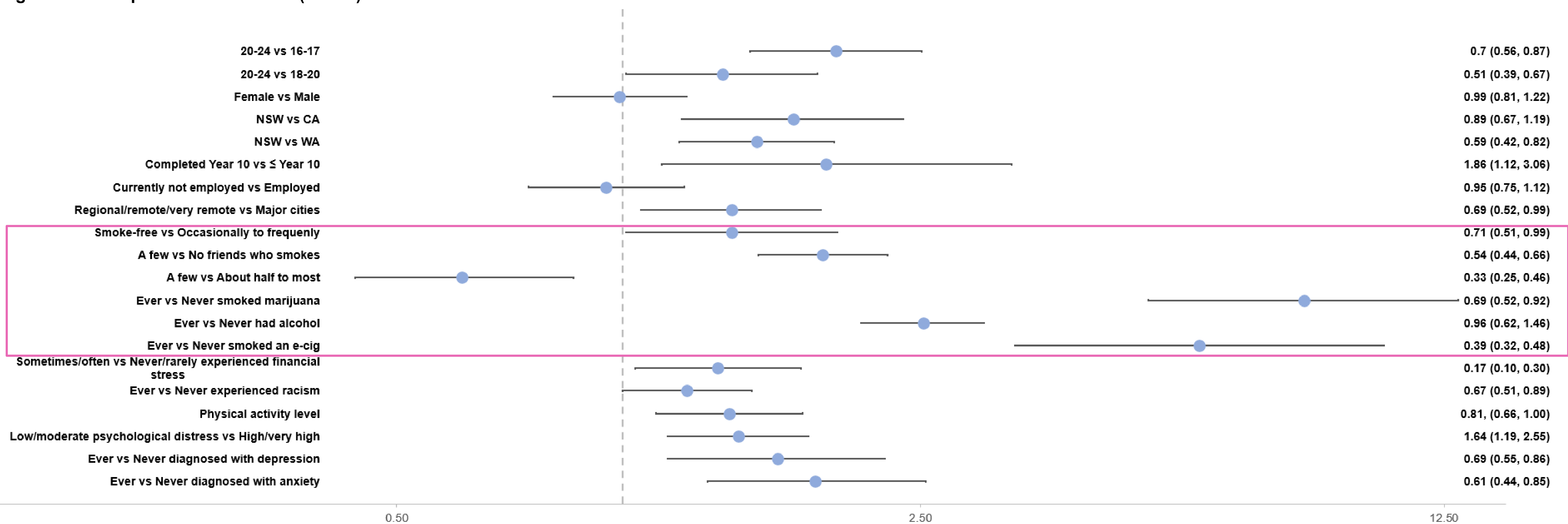


Figure 6: Prevalence Ratios adjusted for Age and Sex

Conclusion

Accelerated tobacco control is required to avoid new generations of smokers, with an increased focus on culturally appropriate strengths-based population, community and individual initiatives targeting Aboriginal youth at a health behaviour formation stage to prevent initiation and support cessation.

References:
1. Maddox R, Thurber KA, Calma T, Banks E, Lovett R. Deadly news: The downward trend continues in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander smoking 2004–2019. Aust N Z J Public Health. 2020;44(6):449-50.
2. Sawyer SM, Affii RA, Bearinger LH, Blakemore S-J, Dick B, Ezech AC, et al. Adolescence: a foundation for future health. The Lancet. 2012;379(9826):1630-40.

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