

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

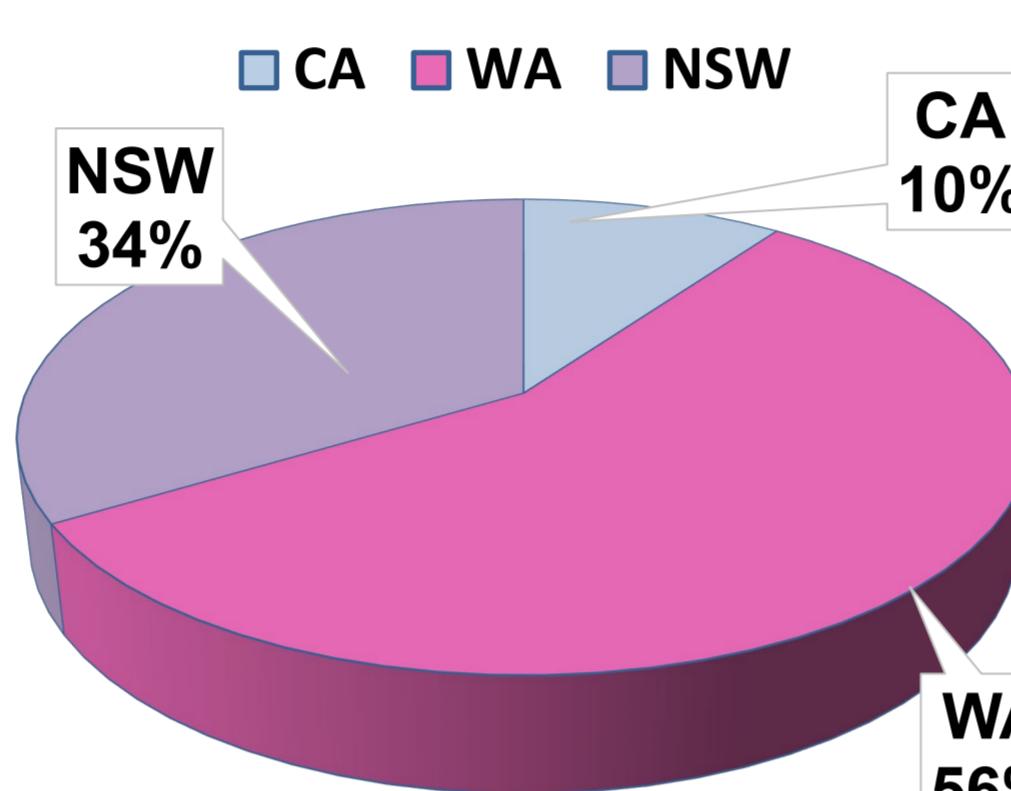
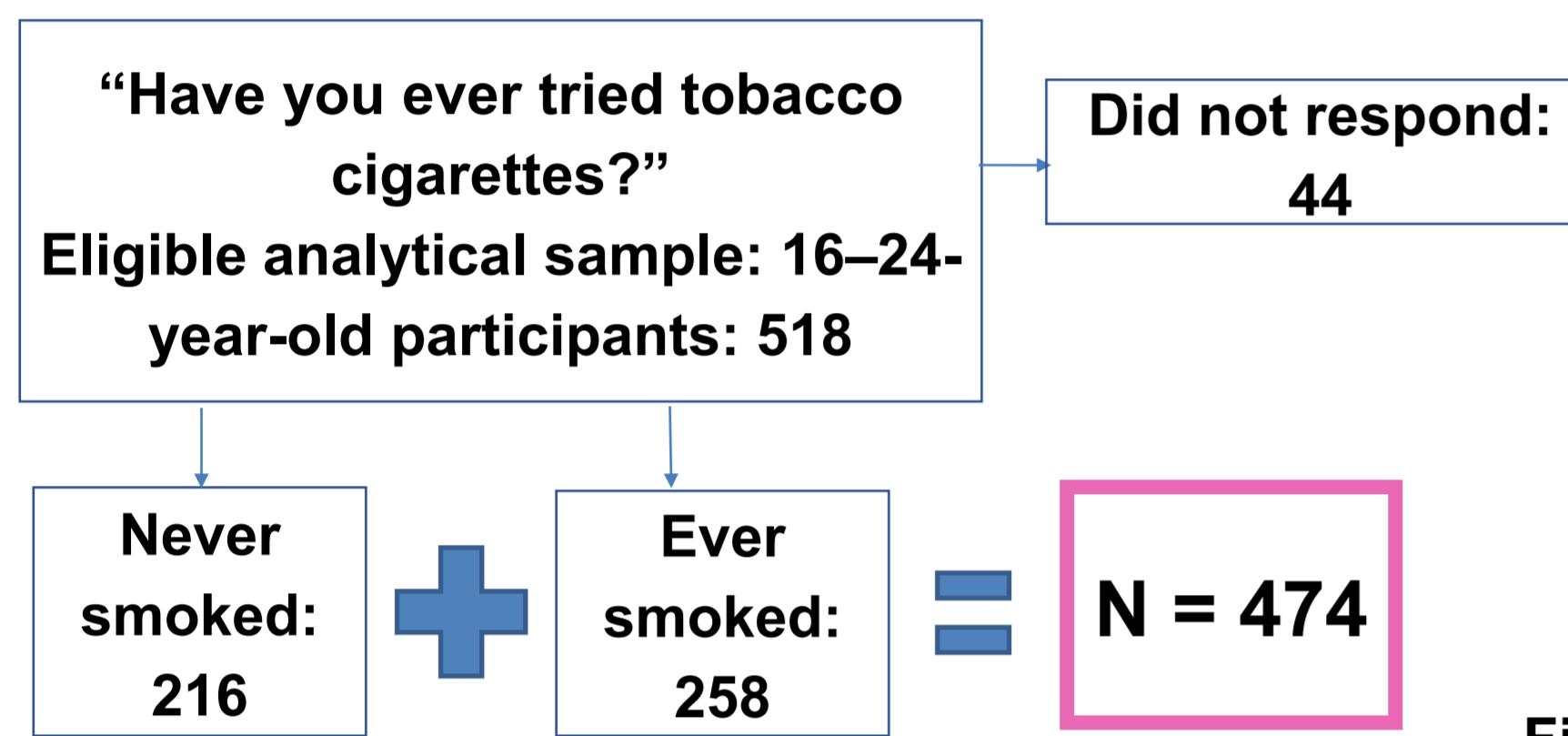
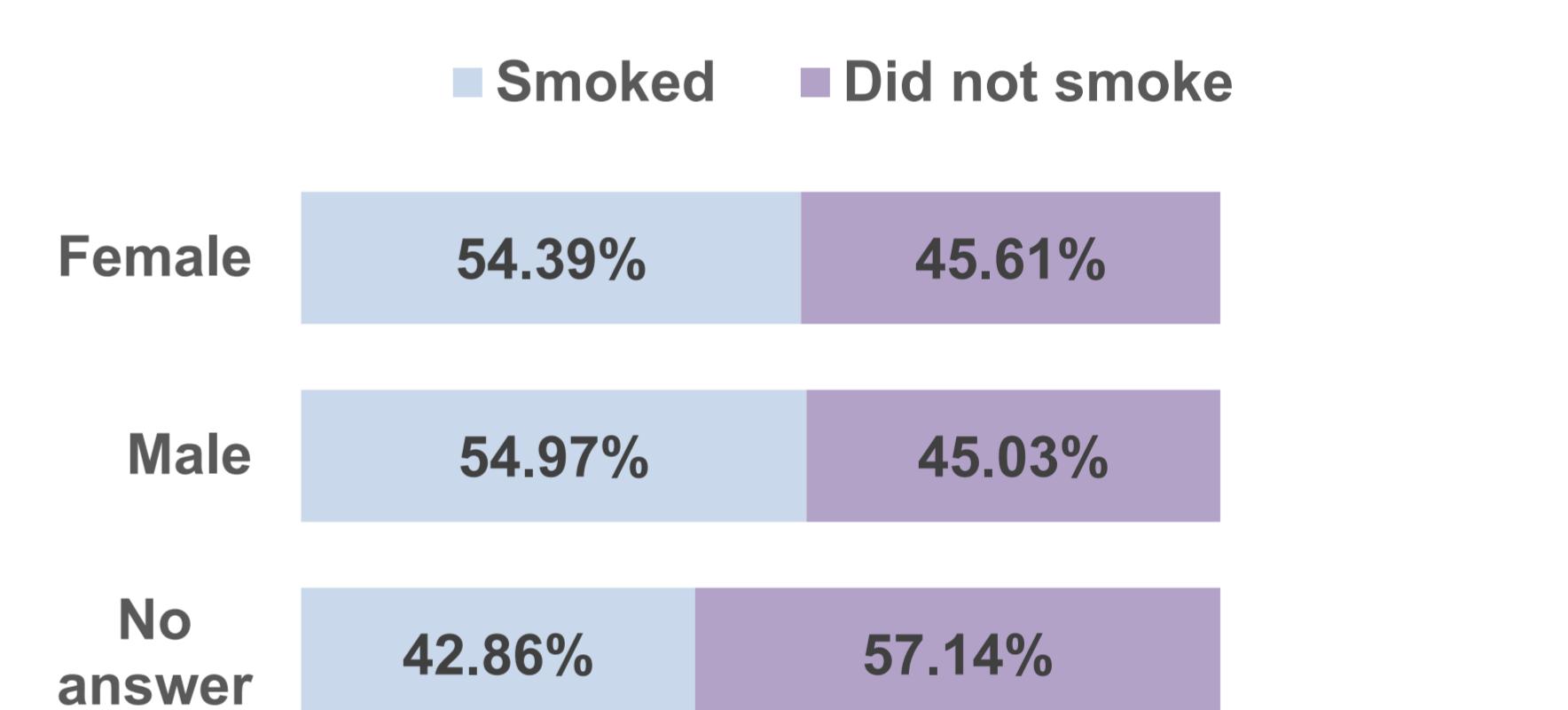
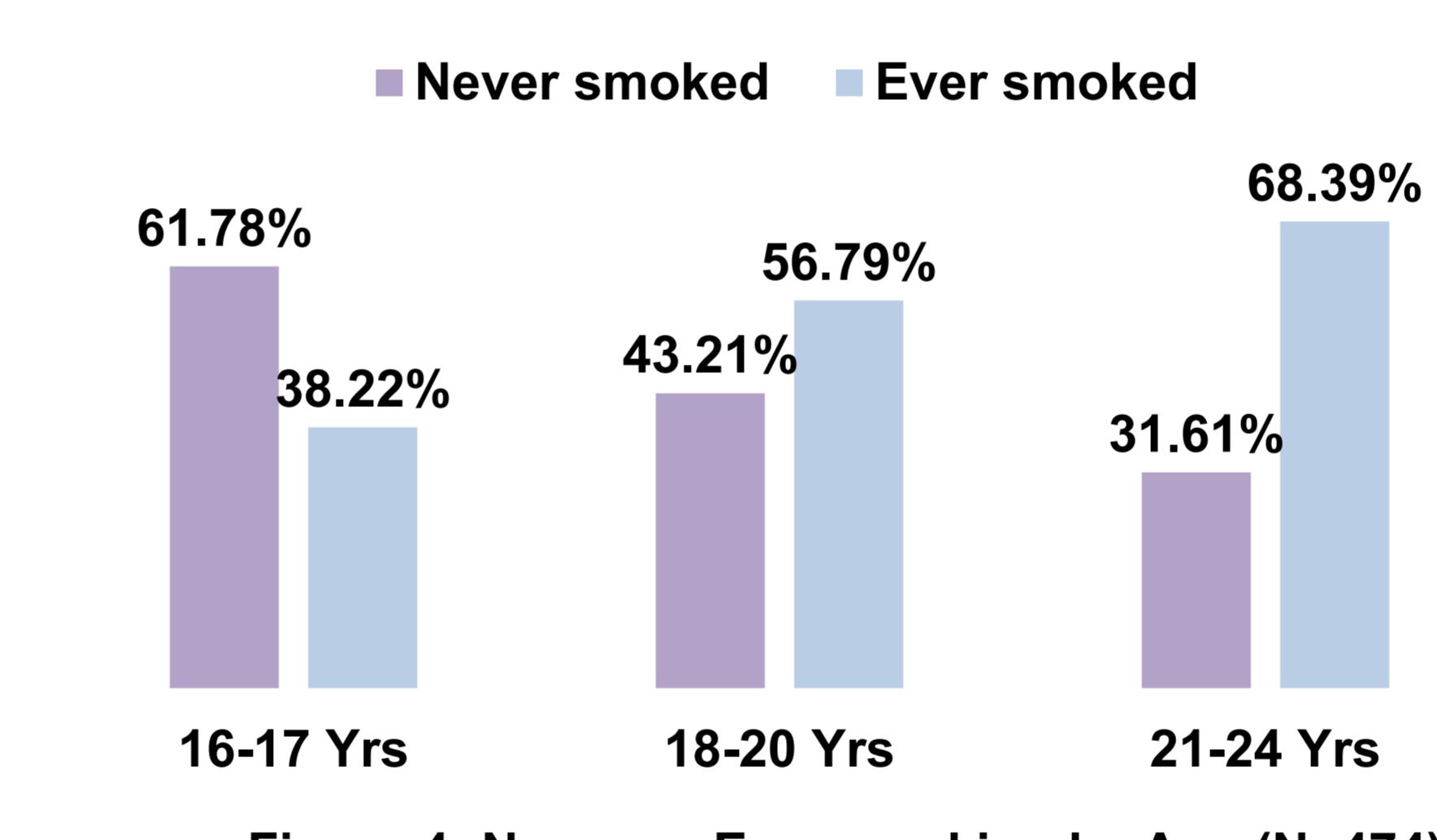
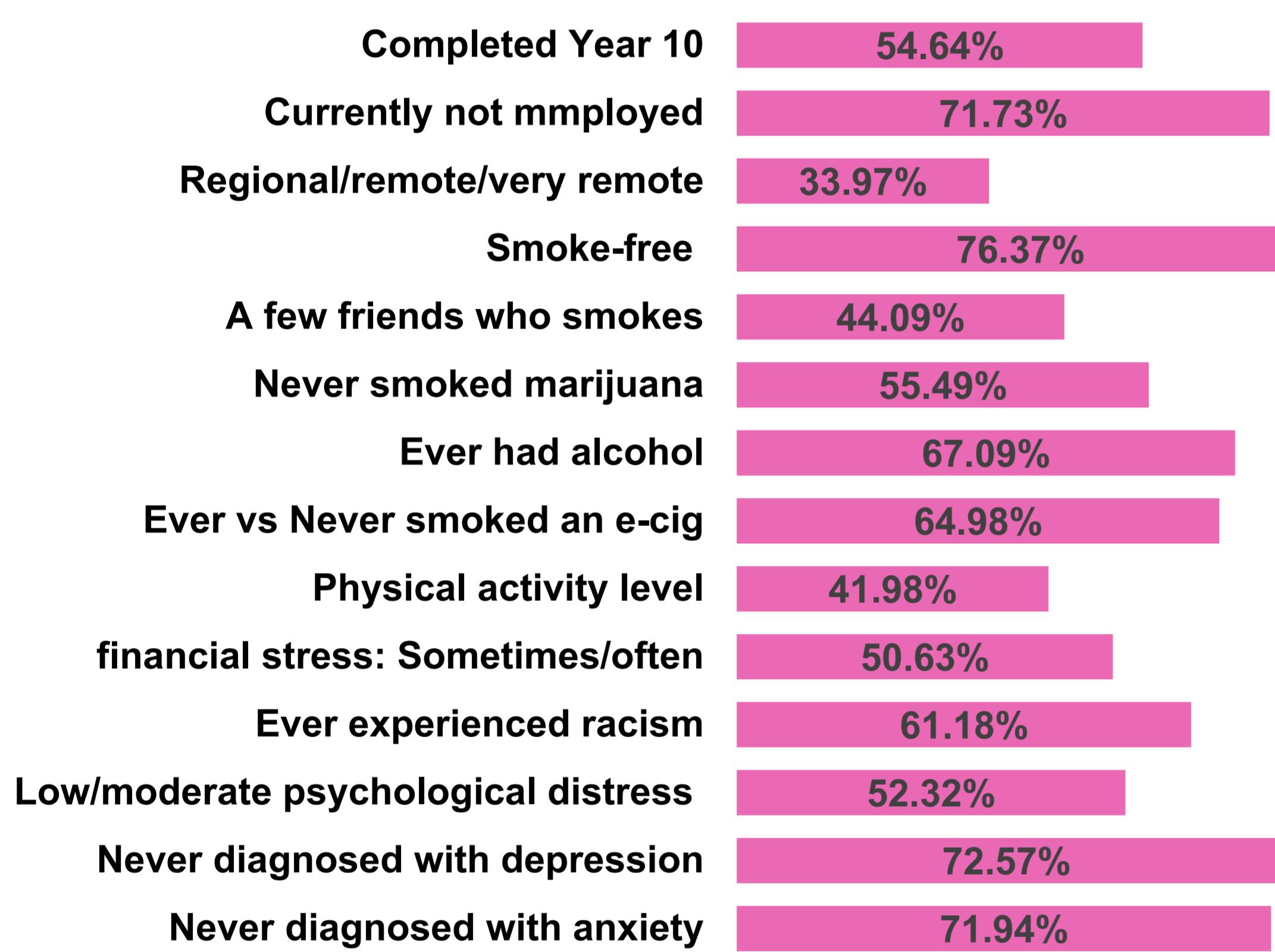


Figure 1: Participant recruitment



Methods

Data

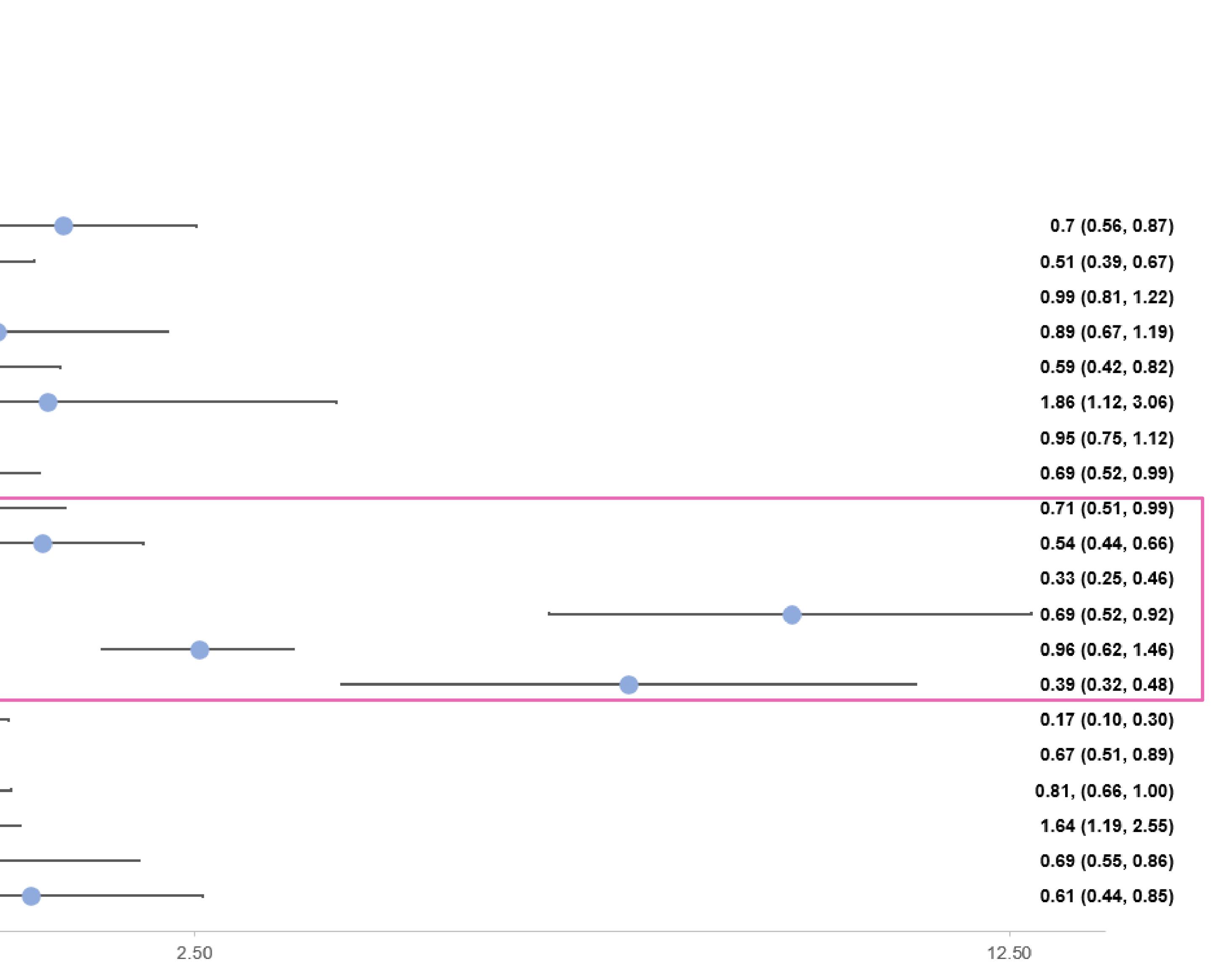
The study was conducted with 10-24-year-old Aboriginal people living in Western Australia (WA), Central Australia (CA) and New South Wales (NSW). Self-reported data were collected between March 2018 – March 2020 via a self-administered survey using a REDCap link or a paper form. Community-based participant recruitment involved peer-recruiters.

Statistical analysis

Analysis includes data contributed by the 16-24-year-old cohort. Age- and sex-adjusted Poisson regression analyses estimated prevalence ratios (PR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI) using complete baseline data on the outcome of interest.

Ethics approvals

Central Australian Aboriginal Human Research Ethics Committee (Ref: 16-398); Western Australian Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee (Ref: 719); Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW Ethics Committee (Ref: 1255-17); Alfred Health Ethics Committee (Ref: 255-16); University of Melbourne Medicine and Dentistry Human Ethics Sub-Committee (ID: 1851155)



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, Affi RA, Bearinger LH, Blakemore S-J, Dick B, Ezeh AC, et al. Adolescence: a foundation for future health. *The Lancet*. 2012;379(9826):1630-40.

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