

## Smoking statistics

### Setting the scene

The popularity of smoking has changed in the UK over the years. What has influenced our attitudes to smoking?

### Aims

In this activity you will:

- study statistics about the percentages of smokers in the UK from 1950–2005
- consider some of the reasons behind the changes in the number of smokers.

You will be using **enquiry processes** to:

- **Analyse:** present data as a graph.

### Task

The table below shows the percentages of smokers in the UK from 1950–2005.

Plot a suitable graph to show this data.

Year	Percentage of males who smoke (%)	Percentage of females who smoke (%)
1950	77	38
1955	74	36
1960	74	42
1965	68	43
1970	68	44
1975	62	43
1980	55	39
1985	46	35
1990	39	29
1995	37	31
2000	32	26
2005	28	23

*Data compiled from International Smoking Statistics: United Kingdom, Barbara Forey et al. (PN Lee Statistics, Jan 2012) [www.pnlee.co.uk](http://www.pnlee.co.uk)*

## Questions

- 1** Describe the overall trend in the percentage population of smokers in the UK from 1950–2005.

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- 2** Describe the similarities and differences between the percentages of smokers in males and females from 1950–2005.

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- 3** Professor Richard Doll was a British scientist who carried out a long study to show the health risks linked to smoking. His work became well known in the 1960s.

Government health campaigns also began in the 1960s. The government insisted that health warnings were placed on cigarette packets and in advertisements.

The Tobacco Advertising & Promotion Act was enacted in November 2002 in the UK, banning all forms of tobacco advertising.

- a** Describe the health risks that Professor Doll found to be associated with smoking.

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- b** Use the information from your graph to explain if the events described above made any impact on the percentages of smokers in the UK. Explain your answer.

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- c** Predict if similar trends in statistics will be observed in Ireland from 1955–2005. Explain your answer.

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- 4** Describe the effects of tobacco smoke on pregnancy.

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### Extension

- 1** Explain one way in which smoking causes disease.

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- 2 a** Give the names of three harmful chemicals found in tobacco.

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- b** Suggest how each of these chemicals affect the development of the fetus in a pregnant woman.

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- 3 a** Draw a sketch graph for the percentage of male smokers in the UK from 1950–2005.
- b** Predict how the percentage of male smokers in the UK will change in the next few decades. Show this by continuing your sketch graph until 2050.
- c** Explain your prediction.

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