



% of obese adults by level of education attainment - OECD 'Education at a Glance 2013

Health remains an important concern in the developed world, in spite of rapid increases in life expectancy in recent decades.

There have been sharp rises in chronic debilitating illness such as diabetes, depression and the deterioration in health related behaviours of diet, exercise and drinking.

Given that childhood is an important time for development, education can have an impact on the incidence of obesity and smoking.

- On average, across OECD countries, adult with a tertiary education are half as likely to be obese than those who do not finish high school.
- Adults in OECD countries are 16 percent less likely to smoke than those who do not finish high school.

Since 1961, spend on health has increased from 3.9% of GDP to 9.5% in 2010.

- The reduction in obesity by education level is greater among women.
- The reduction in smoking by education level is greater among men.

Obese adults are those with a BMI over 30.

OECD Av: 19.1% are obese
Australia: 21.6% are obese

Secondary Education

OECD 19.4%
Australia 23.7%

Tertiary Education

OECD 19.1%
Australia 15.7%

Smoking has declined 20% in the last decade.

OECD 29.8% smoke
Australia 21% smoke

Secondary Education

OECD 32.5%
Australia 24.5%

Tertiary Education

OECD 21.5%
Australia 12.6%