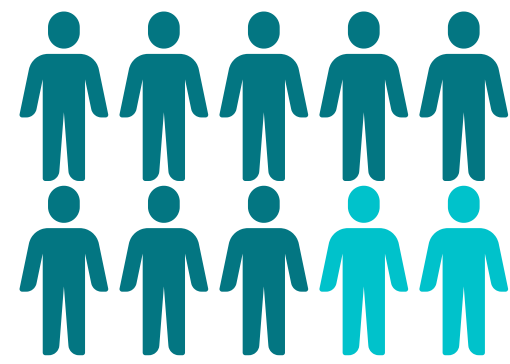


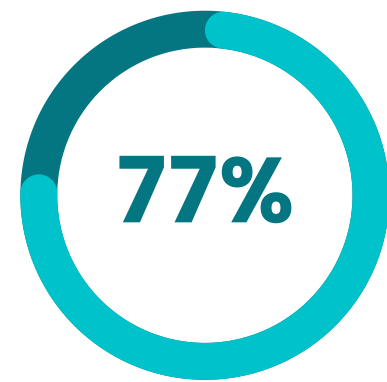
Smoking in Western Australian Prisons



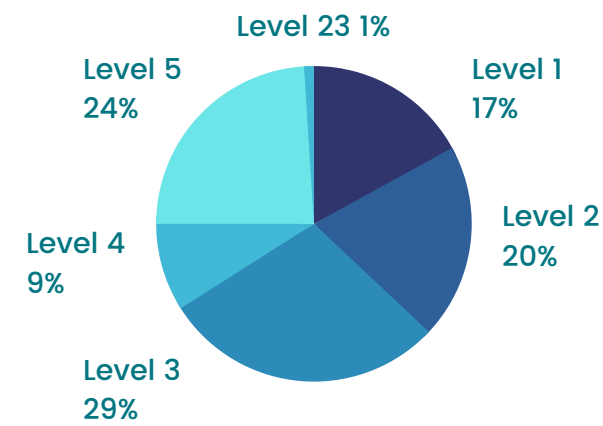
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR OF CUSTODIAL SERVICES



Eight in 10 people within prison in Western Australia are active smokers.



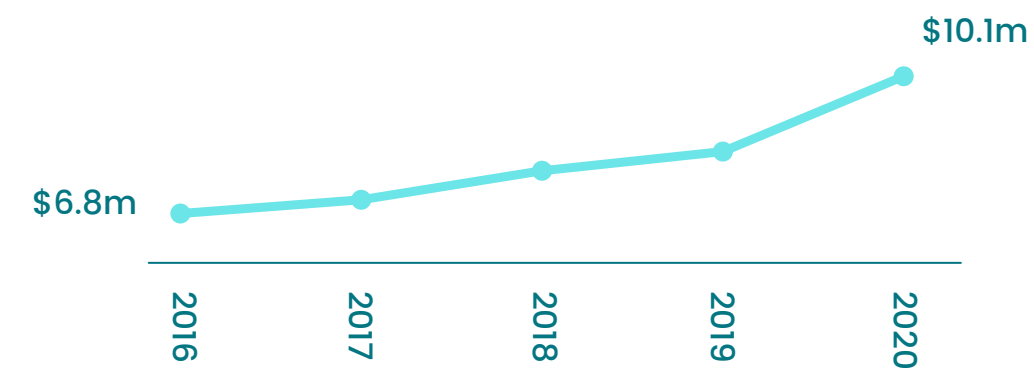
77 per cent of prisoners feel exposed to other people's tobacco smoke frequently or very frequently.



The majority of prisoners are on Level 2 gratuities or lower, earning \$55.44 or less per week.

\$56.77

The average cost of a 25g pouch of White Ox is \$56.77, higher than the weekly earnings of most prisoners.



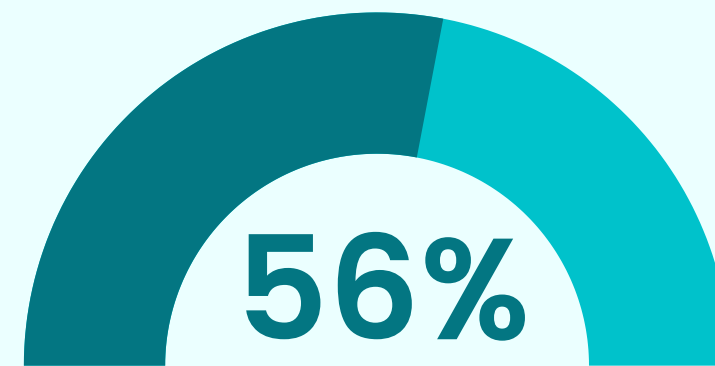
\$10.1m

Sales of tobacco products across all WA prisons reached a high of \$10.1 million in 2020, up from \$6.8 million in 2016.

"It would cause an uproar. There would be a risk in violence and less tolerance of people. Most use smoking to keep their feelings in check."

Male Prisoner

For many prisoners, smoking provides perceived stress relief benefits, is a social activity and a symbol of freedom in a tightly regimented environment.



Fifty-six percent of prisoners did not support a ban on tobacco, including 46 per cent who were outright opposed. Only 36 per cent supported a ban.

"Highly support it. Would decrease crime in prison involving tobacco trade."

Male Prisoner

Of those supportive, most were non-smokers. Women were also generally more supportive of a ban than men, with 40 per cent supportive or very supportive compared to only 27 per cent of men.

Staff feel exposed to tobacco smoke every day



Staff observe prisoners smoking inside their cells on a daily basis

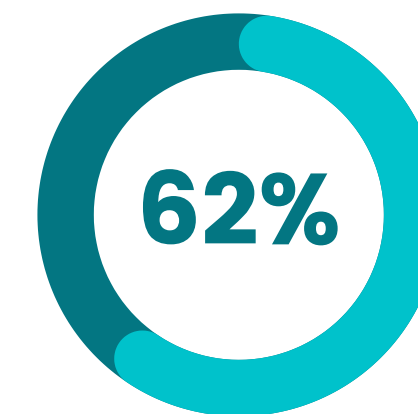


Staff feel prisons should do more to control non-compliant smoking behaviour



"There has been no attempt to my knowledge within the last year to reduce the amount of smoke that staff are exposed to in my area of the prison. It seems as though we are just expected to deal with it as a regular daily occurrence and it is quite frankly a disgrace and a risk to all of our health."

Prison Officer



62 per cent of staff are very supportive of a full ban on smoking in WA prisons.

Western Australia and the ACT remain the last jurisdictions to implement smoke-free prison policies. Following reforms in 2008 and 2015 smoking is only permitted in outdoor designated areas.

