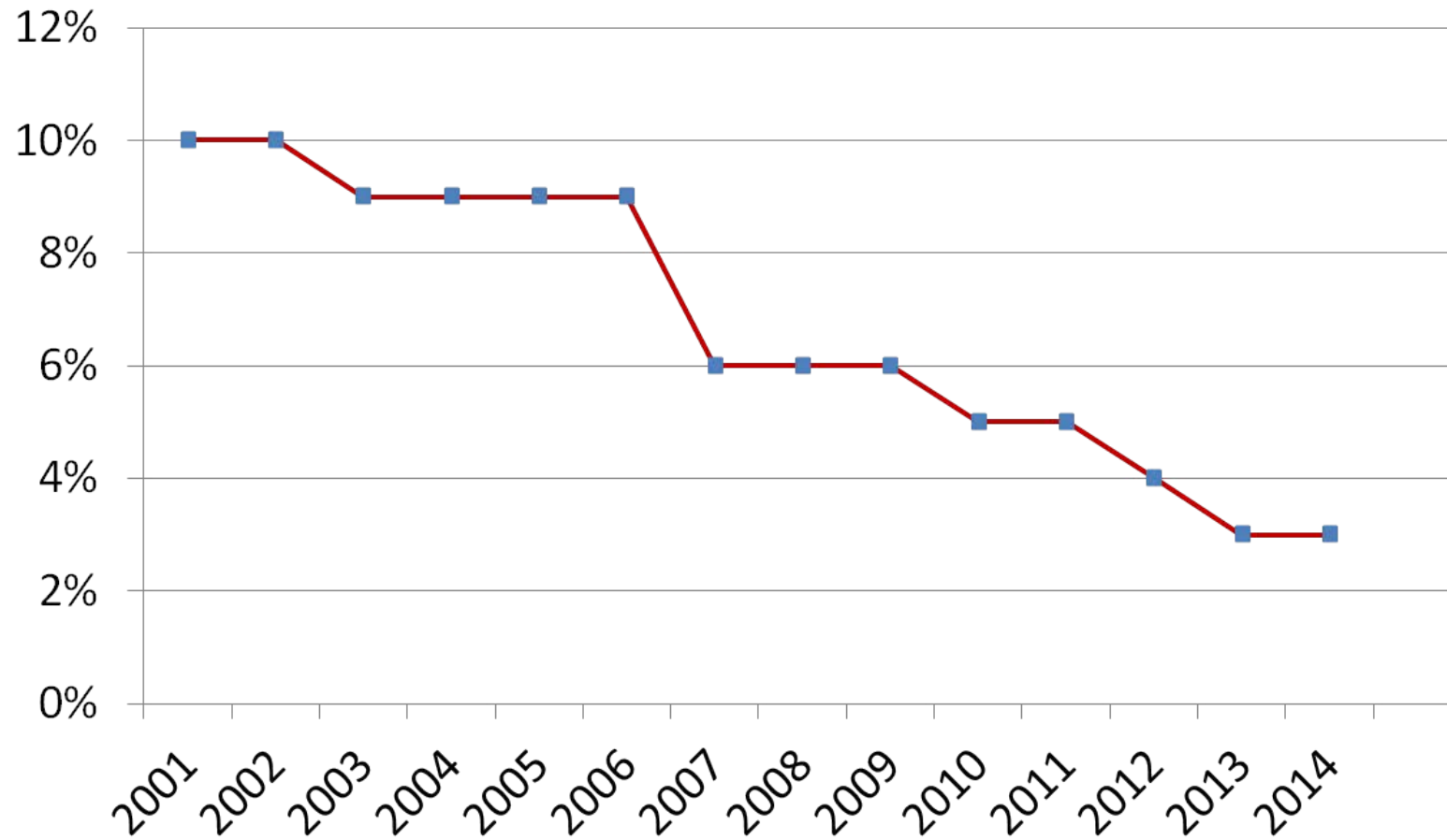


Smoking: what is normal?

11-15 year-olds in England who smoke regularly
(at least one cigarette a week) 2001 – 2014





Activity sheet

Smoking: what is normal?

SURVEY

Do this survey with up to five people and record their responses below. Ask the question: 'What percentage of 11 to 15 year-olds in England do you at think smoke regularly, that is, least one cigarette a week?'

Person	Record their guess here:	Tell each person the actual figure. Were they surprised? Record their response here:	If they guessed higher than the actual figure ask them why they thought it was higher. Record their response here:	Ask them why they think fewer and fewer young people are smoking than in the past. Record their response here:
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				



Activity sheet

Smoking: what is normal?

Read this newspaper Report



Shock of teenage smokers

A shocking new report out this week shows that there are still thousands of under-age smokers despite several health campaigns which have been put in place by the government. The annual survey of young people's health behaviour shows that despite a fall in the number of 11 to 15 year-olds who are regular smokers the government has still not achieved its target of completely stamping out smoking among young people.

An opposition spokesman said, "These statistics show that a small but very significant number of our young people are continuing to take up smoking every year. The present government has not met its targets in

this area. We need to spend more money on health, and education is needed in order to achieve the best results."

But Cheryl Smith, Minister for Health, responded saying, "We are confident that our policies are working and by building closer links with the police, health services, shops, parents and schools we will continue to make improvements to young people's health."

The annual behaviour survey of 11 to 15 year-olds has shown a steady decline in smoking rates over the past twelve years with 3% of young people smoking regularly in 2014 compared to 10% in 2001.

Questions to consider:

- Why does the headline not give the message that smoking rates among young people are falling?
- How many 11 to 15 year-olds are non-smokers?
- Why do you think the report doesn't focus on the ones who are not smoking?
- Why do you think the report doesn't celebrate the fact that smoking rates have fallen hugely over the last ten years?
- Why do you think the actual figures have been left to the last paragraph?

Activity

Write a letter to the newspaper explaining that it should be giving out a more positive message about young people. Point out that fewer young people are smoking than in the past and that the majority of young people like to behave in safe, kind and healthy ways. Describe some of the things that you and your friends enjoy doing together which are safe and healthy.

Use the statistics on the graph to back up your argument.