

Acceptability of smoking around other people

Health and Lifestyles Survey 2008

Background

There are a number of potential benefits in implementing restrictions on smoking in places where other people, particularly children, might be affected. This includes reductions in:

- exposure to second-hand smoke
- role modeling of smoking
- the extent to which smoking is seen as normal and acceptable.

However, because smoking restrictions in public places and in cars affect a large number of people, it is important to gauge public opinion around allowing smoking in these places. To help establish this information, people were asked a series of questions in the Health Sponsorship Council's (HSC's) 2008 Health and Lifestyles Survey (HLS).

Methodology

All respondents were asked for their levels of agreement or disagreement ('strongly agree', 'agree', 'neither agree nor disagree', 'disagree', or 'strongly disagree') with a series of statements – that **smoking should not be allowed**:

- **outside bars and restaurants, in areas that can be seen by children and young people**
- **in cars with children under the age of 14 in them**
- **within five metres of the entrance of all buildings used by the public, like shops, office buildings and libraries.**

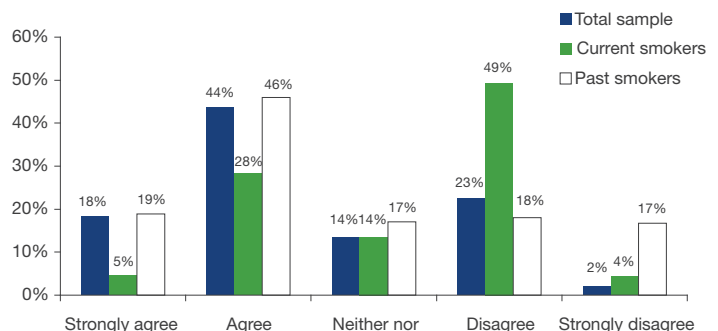
Agreement levels are presented for the overall sample and then for current smokers (those who smoked at least monthly) and past smokers (those who had smoked in the past but had stopped).

Detailed Findings

“Smoking should not be allowed outside bars and restaurants, in areas that can be seen by children and young people”

- Around three in five (62%) respondents 'strongly agreed' (18%) or 'agreed' (44%), and around one in 10 (14%) 'neither agreed nor disagreed'.
- One in three (33%) current smokers 'strongly agreed' (5%) or 'agreed' (28%).
- Around three in five (62%) past smokers 'strongly agreed' (19%) or 'agreed' (42%).

Figure 1. Agreement that smoking should not be allowed outside bars and restaurants, in areas that can be seen by children and young people



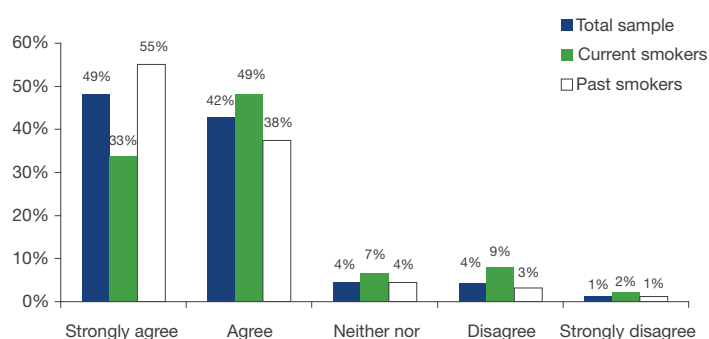
*percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding

Acceptability of smoking around other people Health and Lifestyles Survey 2008 (continued)

“Smoking should not be allowed in cars with children under the age of 14 in them”

- Around nine in 10 (91%) respondents overall ‘strongly agreed’ (49%) or ‘agreed’ (42%).
- Around eight in 10 (82%) current smokers ‘strongly agreed’ (33%) or ‘agreed’ (49%).
- Around nine in 10 (93%) past smokers ‘strongly agreed’ (54%) or ‘agreed’ (38%).

Figure 2. Agreement that smoking should not be allowed in cars with children under the age of 14 in them

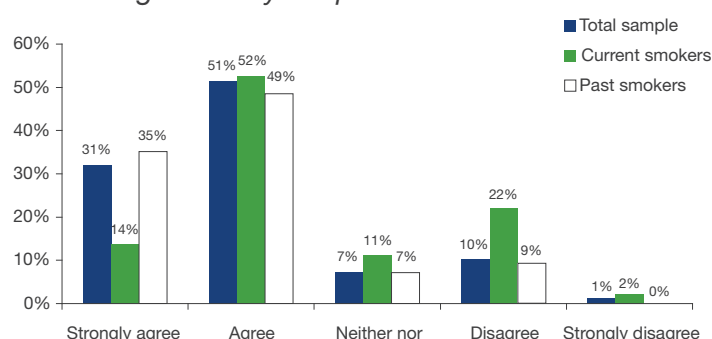


*percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding

“Smoking should not be allowed within five metres of the entrance of all buildings used by the public, like shops, office buildings and libraries”

- Around eight in 10 (82%) respondents overall either ‘strongly agreed’ (31%) or ‘agreed’ (51%).
- Two in three (66%) current smokers ‘strongly agreed’ (14%) or ‘agreed’ (52%).
- Around eight in 10 (81%) past smokers ‘strongly agreed’ (33%) or ‘agreed’ (49%).

Figure 3. Agreement that smoking should not be allowed within five metres of the entrance of all buildings used by the public



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About the Survey

- The HLS is a nationwide in-home face-to-face survey conducted every two years. The first HLS was carried out in 2008 with a sample of 1,608 New Zealanders aged 15 years and over, who provided information about their health behaviours and attitudes relating to tobacco, sun safety, healthy eating and gambling.
- The main sample, with a response rate of 64%, included 818 people of European/Other ethnicity, 392 Māori, 324 Pacific peoples and 74 Asian people.
- The data have been adjusted (weighted) to ensure they are representative of the New Zealand population.
- A full description of the 2008 HLS survey methodology and further HLS publications can be found online at www.hsc.org.nz/researchpublications.html.

About the HSC

The HSC is a crown entity that uses health promotion initiatives to promote health and encourage healthy lifestyles, with a long-term focus on reducing the social, financial and health costs of a number of health behaviours.

Citation

Trappitt, R., Li, J., & Tu, D. (2011). *Acceptability of smoking around other people – Health and Lifestyles Survey 2008* [In Fact]. Wellington: Health Sponsorship Council. Retrieved from www.hsc.org.nz/researchpublications.html