

Estimating Support for Smokefree Outdoor Spaces

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Current Study

Methodology

- Mail survey of 1000 Dunedin residents
 - 600 “general” electorate members; 400 Māori electorate members
 - Overall response rate 49%
- Questionnaire examined:
 - Use of outdoor spaces with children
 - Probability of supporting smokefree outdoor policies
 - Attitudes to smokefree outdoor areas
 - Perceived policy outcomes

Results – Policy Support

Smokefree policies in...	Proportion Supporting Policy			Sig.
	Never Smoked	Former Smoker	Current Smoker	
Playgrounds	85	80	60	.000
Community or family events	80	75	54	.000
Building entrances	79	72	55	.000
Outdoor restaurant areas	77	75	56	.000
Footpaths in shopping areas	77	72	52	.000
Sports grounds	76	72	56	.000
Other parks and reserves	74	68	46	.000
Beaches	72	61	43	.000
Outdoor bar areas	67	56	39	.000

Results – Attitudes to Smoking Spaces

Statement	Mean Score (1-5 scale)			Sig.
	Never Smoked (ca 200)	Former Smoker (ca 142)	Current Smoker (ca 63)	
Smoking should not be allowed near children	4.3	4.1	3.1	.000
Children who see parents smoke are more likely to smoke	4.0	3.9	2.9	.000
Non-smoking signs would prevent outdoor smoking	3.1	2.9	3.1	ns
OK to smoke around non-smokers outside	2.3	2.4	3.5	.000

Results: Policy Implications

Smokefree outdoor policies would...	Never Smoker	Former Smokers	Smokers %
Reduce children's exposure to smokers	76	71	42
Have little difference on children's exposure to smokers	21	21	48
Can't choose	3	8	10

Most smokers would...			
Respect a voluntary smokefree policy outdoors	33	41	48
Ignore a voluntary smokefree policy outdoors	49	49	38
Can't choose	17	11	14

Results: Policy Implications

Smokefree outdoor policies will...	Never Smoker	Former Smoker	Smoker %
Reduce litter and be better for the environment	66	61	33
Have little effect on litter and the environment	31	34	59
Can't choose	3	5	6

Smokefree outdoor policies will ...			
Encourage quitting or reduce smoking	50	49	35
Have little effect on smoking	44	44	62
Can't choose	6	7	3

Smokefree outdoor policies will...			
Lead smokers to smoke indoors	33	18	37
Have little effect on indoor smoking	44	66	51
Can't choose	23	15	13

Conclusions and Policy Implications

Overall, strong support for smokefree outdoor policies

- Evident in attitudes, projected support and perceived outcomes

Support strongest from non-smoking groups

- But also evident among smokers
 - Suggests a low risk set of measures for politicians!
- Mandate to introduce these policies
 - Need to design and conduct evaluations to assess impact