

Predictors of Public Support for Smoke-Free Outdoor Public Places

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Much of the US has passed indoor smoke-free laws in recent years. Outdoor smoke-free policies are also becoming more common.

OBJECTIVE: To describe public support for this emerging issue in children's environmental health, and to determine if attitudes and practices about tobacco smoke are associated with support for multi-unit smoke-free policies.

DESIGN/METHODS: Mixed-mode cross-sectional surveys representing national probability samples of adults were administered in 2010. The design included a Random-Digit-Dialing (RDD) frame and an internet panel (IP) frame. Bivariate analyses examined predictors of support, while multivariate analyses controlled for demographics.

RESULTS: The RDD frame yielded a cooperation rate of 71% and a response rate of 47.9% (N=1,504). For the IP frame, 2,272 panelists were randomly drawn from the probability panel; 1,736 responded to the invitation, yielding a final stage completion rate of 67.5% percent. The recruitment rate for this study was 16.4% and the profile rate (at least one member of a recruited household completed a profile survey for the panel) was 65.1%, for a cumulative response rate of 7.2%. Combined results reveal support varying across outdoor settings; doorways (66%), outdoor seating areas of restaurants (48%), sidewalks (40%), beaches (35%), and outdoor parks (31%). Women were more supportive than than men. Although nonsmokers were more supportive, many smokers also support outdoor smoke-free places. Support was strongest among those who did not allow smoking inside of their home and who held normative beliefs against smoking in the presence of children or in places that nonsmokers would later occupy. These differences persisted after controlling for education, age, race, and child in home in multivariate analyses.

CONCLUSIONS: Many Americans support smoke-free outdoor public places. Public health strategies that increased awareness about the harms of tobacco smoke pollution could increase public support further, and thereby increase the likelihood of communities implementing smoke-free policies for public outdoor places.

DETAILED METHODS

SOCIAL CLIMATE SURVEY OF TOBACCO CONTROL: The Social Climate Survey of Tobacco Control (SCS-TC) is an annual cross-sectional survey designed to operationalize the concept of social climate into a comprehensive set of quantifiable social and environmental indicators across the social institutions that characterize society.

RESPONDENTS: The SCS-TC was administered to a representative sample of U.S. adults in September-November. In order to reduce noncoverage issues arising from wireless substitution, mixed-mode cross-sectional surveys representing national probability samples of adults were administered in 2010. The design included an RDD frame and an internet panel frame developed from a probability sample. Both samples were weighted by age, race, and gender within each census region, based on current U.S. Census estimates.

MEASURES: Five items assessed support for smoke-free outdoor public places. Two questions from the Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) were used to assess current smoking status. Respondents were asked, "Have you smoked at least 100 cigarettes in your entire life?" and if yes, were then asked, "Do you now smoke cigarettes every day, some days, or not at all?" Respondents who reported that they smoke every day or some days were categorized as current smokers. Respondents who reported that they did not smoke at all (but who had smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime) were categorized as former smokers.

RESULTS | 2010 WEIGHTED SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

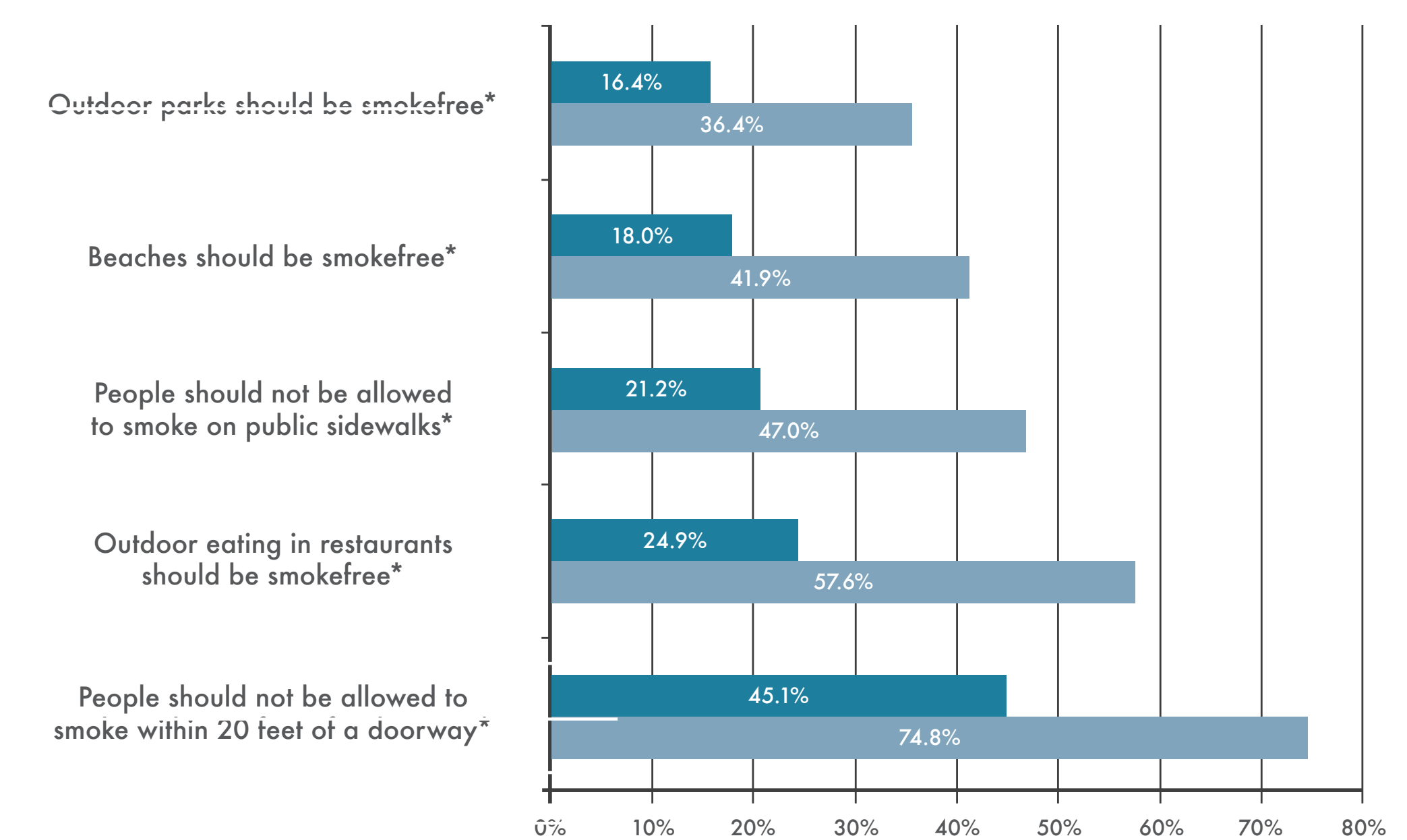
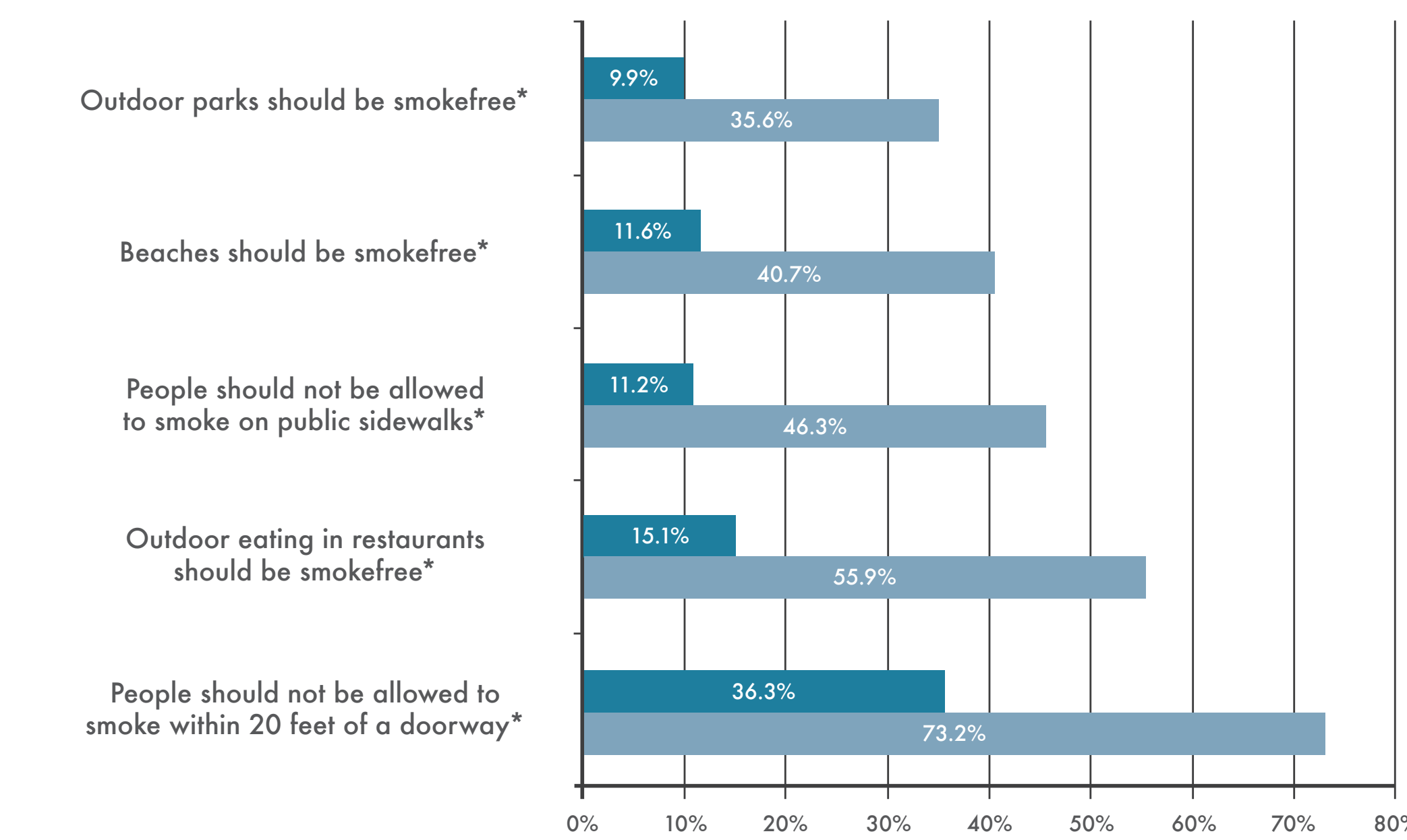
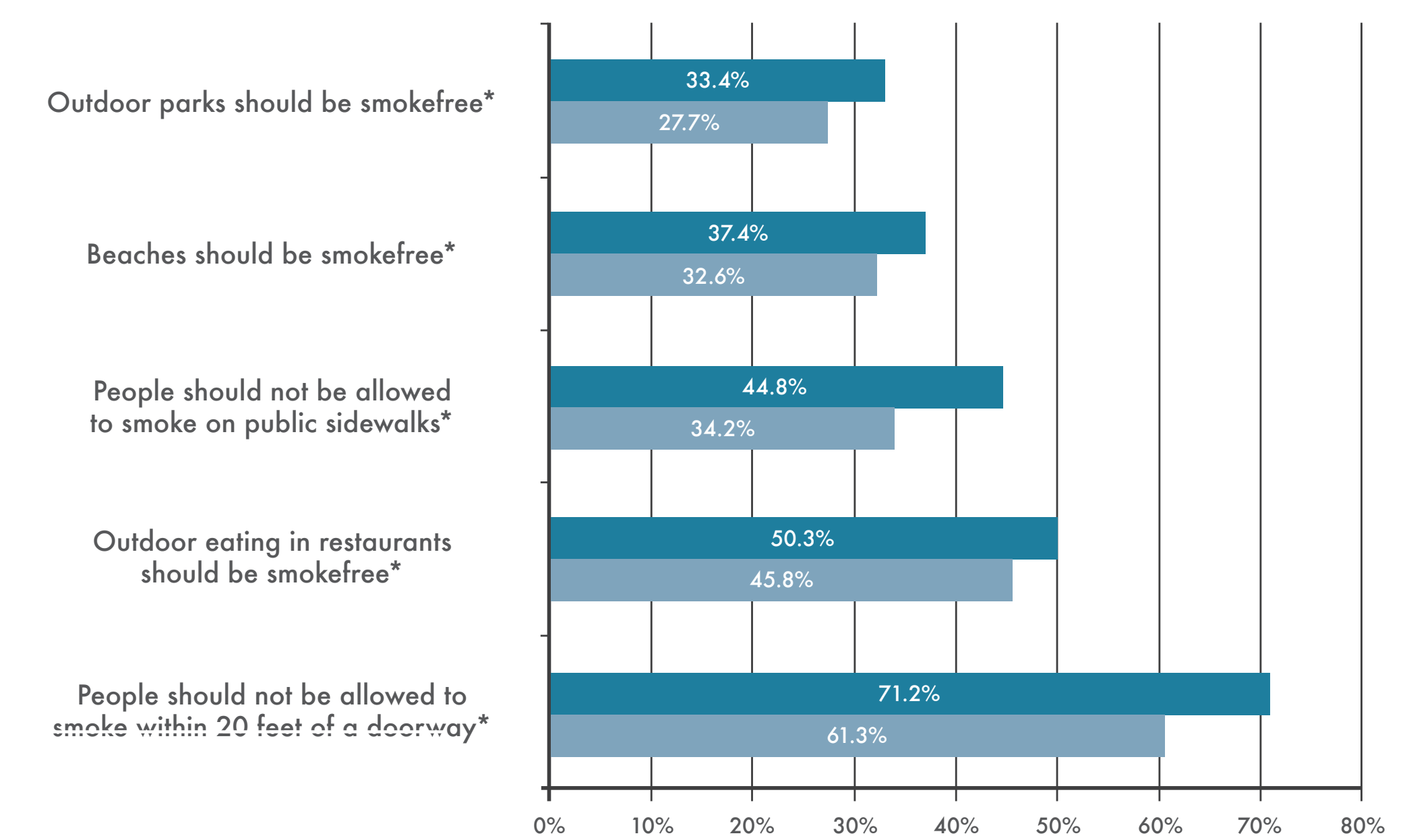
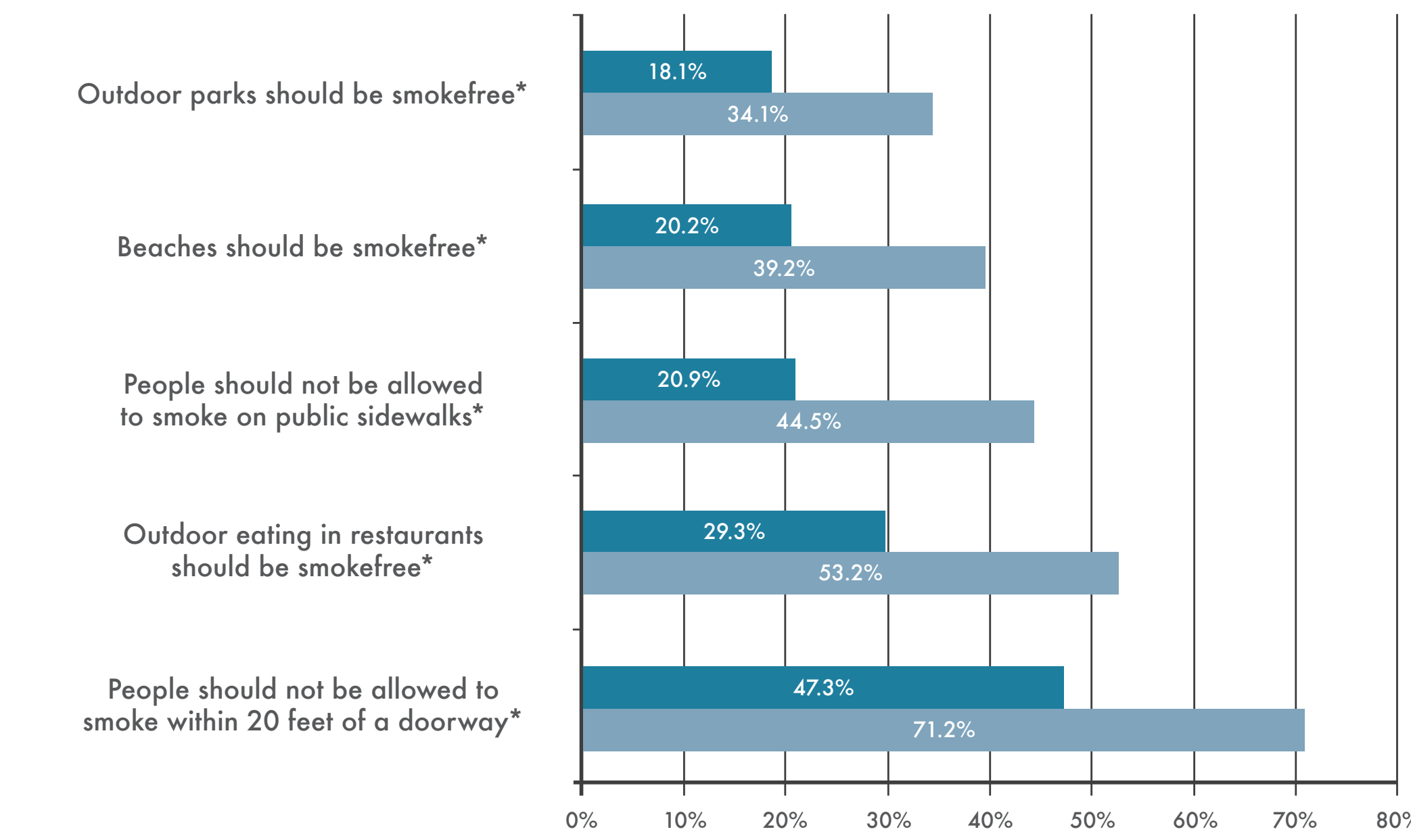
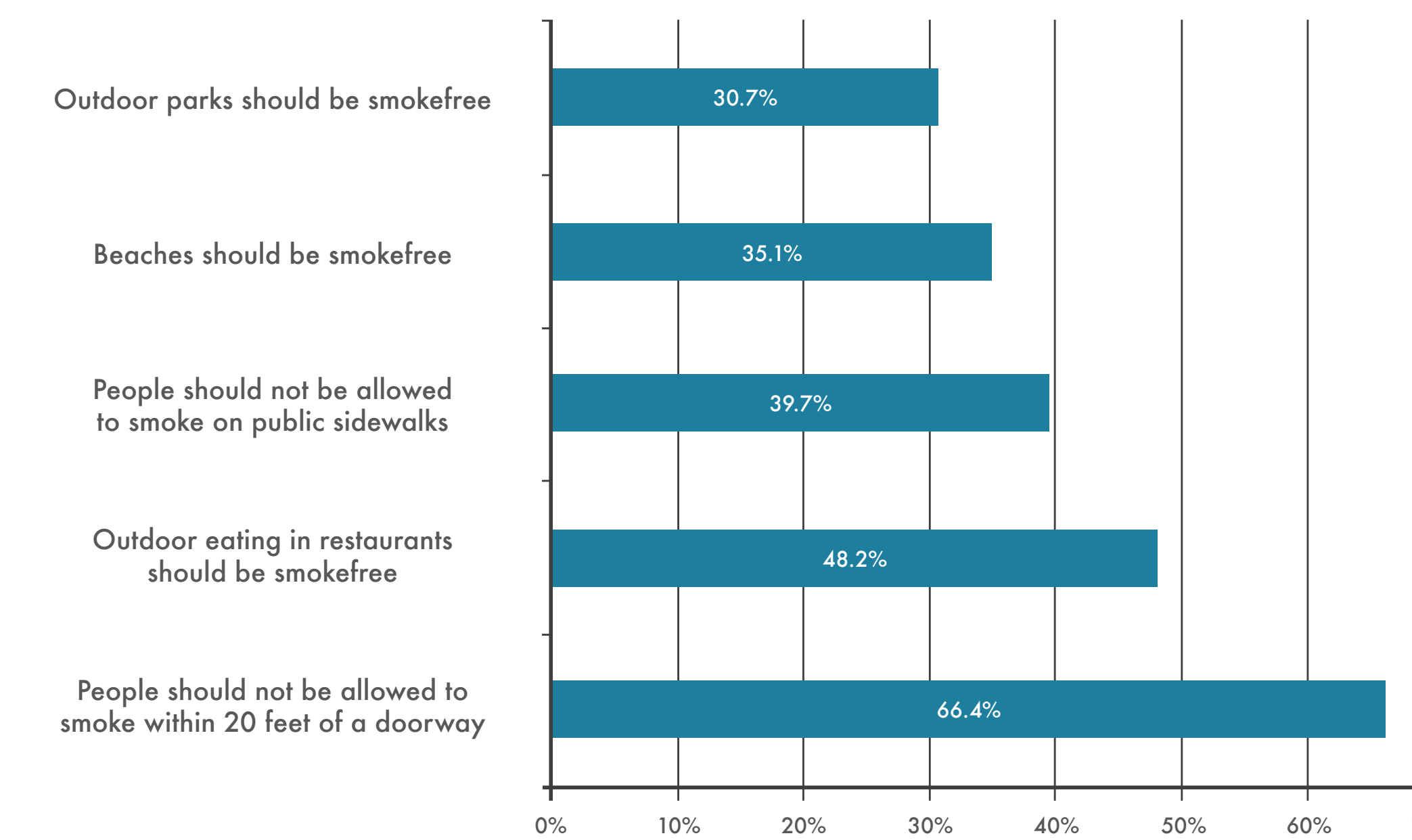
DEMOGRAPHICS	STATISTICS (%)	DEMOGRAPHICS	STATISTICS (%)
GENDER	MALE 47.6	EDUCATION	NOT A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE 9.2
	FEMALE 52.4		HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE 28.5
AGE	18-24 13.7		SOME COLLEGE 29.3
	25-44 38.8		COLLEGE DEGREE 33.0
	45-64 33.3	RURAL/URBAN STATUS	RURAL 21.5
	65 AND OLDER 14.2		URBAN 78.5
RACE	WHITE 74.2	REGION	NORTHWEST 12.6
	AFRICAN-AMERICAN 11.5		MIDWEST 18.4
	OTHER 14.3		SOUTH 37.6
SMOKING STATUS	NEVER SMOKER 56.9		WEST 31.4
	FORMER SMOKER 24.8		
	CURRENT SMOKER 18.3		

LOGISTIC REGRESSION

PREDICTORS	DOORWAYS	OUTDOOR SEATING AREAS	SIDEWALKS	BEACHES	OUTDOOR PARKS
	OR; CI	OR; CI	OR; CI	OR; CI	OR; CI
FEMALE	1.6; 1.4, 1.9	1.2; 1.0, 1.4	1.6; 1.3, 1.9	1.2; 1.0, 1.4	1.2; 1.1, 1.5
NONSMOKER	2.7; 2.2, 3.4	4.2; 3.2, 5.5	4.5; 3.3, 6.0	3.2; 2.4, 4.3	3.5; 2.5, 4.7
HOME SMOKING BAN	2.0; 1.6, 2.4	2.2; 1.8, 2.7	2.1; 1.7, 2.6	1.9; 1.6, 2.4	1.8; 1.4, 2.2
CHILDREN SHOULD BE PROTECTED FROM SECONDHAND SMOKE	1.7; 1.5, 2.1	1.5; 1.3, 1.8	1.6; 1.3, 1.9	1.5; 1.2, 1.7	1.4; 1.3, 1.7
PEOPLE SHOULDN'T SMOKE IN PLACES THAT NONSMOKERS WILL LATER OCCUPY	1.6; 1.3, 1.9	1.7; 1.4, 2.1	1.9; 1.5, 2.5	1.7; 1.3, 2.1	1.4; 1.1, 1.8

CONTROLLING FOR AGE, SMOKING STATUS, GENDER, BELIEFS ABOUT THIRDHAND SMOKE, BELIEFS ABOUT PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM TOBACCO SMOKE, PARENTAL STATUS, HOUSEHOLD SMOKING RULES, EDUCATION, RACE

PUBLIC SUPPORT



* p<.05

DISCUSSION

- These data have implications for implementing smoke-free policies in public outdoor places where children play.
- Many Americans support smoke-free outdoor public places.
- Public health strategies that increased awareness about the harms of tobacco smoke pollution indoors, especially for children, could increase public support further, and thereby increase the likelihood of states and communities implementing smoke-free policies for public outdoor places.