



Source materials for teaching controversial issues

Smoking in public places

This resource provides information and arguments around the issue of smoking in public places. By **Gary Clemitshaw**.

Statistics

- **Passive smoking**
- **Smoke-free workplace**
- **Opinion poll (Tobacco Manufacturers' Association)**
- **Opinion poll (Guardian)**

Passive smoking

% increased risk of heart disease through passive smoking 50-60%

Figure above based on research carried out by London St. George's and Royal Free hospitals, posted by **BBC News**.

Smoke-free workplace

"Ireland, Norway and New Zealand have each passed laws to ensure all enclosed workplaces are smoke free. How strongly, if at all, would you support or oppose a proposal to bring in a similar law in this country?"

Strongly support a smoke free law	54%
Tend to support	35%
Neither support nor oppose	8%
Tend to oppose	7%

Strongly oppose smoke free law 4%

Figures from a MORI poll commissioned by ASH (Action on Smoking and Health), an anti-smoking pressure group posted at <http://www.ash.org.uk/html/fact14.html> accessed on 16.08.04.

Opinion poll (Tobacco Manufacturers' Association)

Results from a survey for the Tobacco Manufacturers' Association

Adults agreeing that smoking should be banned in pubs, clubs and bars 17%

Adults feeling that smoking situation in pubs, clubs and bars has improved in recent years 86%

Adults noticing an increase in non-smoking areas in recent years 73%

Adults who felt further improvements are needed 75%

Better ventilation 24%

Increasing non-smoking areas 16%

Banning smoking at the bar to protect workers 4%

Banning smoking 17%

"Many prefer a more flexible approach (than a ban), the most popular options being more non-smoking areas (19%), a real choice of smoking policies (10%), or leaving it up to the management (9%). There is relatively little public support for national or local government regulation of smoking in public places, which is advocated by less than a quarter of the total sample."

Figures quoted from *Key Issues: Smoking in public places*, drawn from a survey carried out by BRMB International for the Tobacco Manufacturers' Association, posted by **Forest** (a pro-smoking pressure group).

Opinion poll (Guardian)

Results from a survey for *The Guardian*

Adults wanting an outright ban on smoking in public places	20%
Adults wanting restrictions on smoking where there are likely to be children	92%
Adults supporting pubs being mainly non-smoking with designated smoking areas	51%
Adults supporting pubs being mainly smoking with designated non-smoking areas	19%
Adults in favour of a complete ban on smoking in public places	20%
Adults supporting no restrictions on smoking	8%

Figures quoted from a survey by the Office for National Statistics, released July 2004, and posted by ***The Guardian***.

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