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**Coverage**  
Great Britain  
**Theme**  
Health and Care

## Two in three people in favour of smoking restrictions in pubs

Support for smoking restrictions in public places has been increasing since 1996, according to a survey report\* published today by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The largest increase was in support for restrictions in pubs, which rose from 48 per cent in 1996 to 56 per cent in 2003 and then to 65 per cent in 2004.

When people were asked in more detail what restrictions in pubs they would prefer, 47 per cent thought that pubs should be mainly non-smoking with smoking allowed in designated areas, and 16 per cent thought the premises should be mainly smoking with a designated non-smoking area. Nearly a third (31 per cent) said that smoking should not be allowed anywhere, an increase since 2003 when only 20 per cent thought smoking should not be allowed anywhere. Only 5 per cent thought there should be no restrictions on smoking at all.

Thirty per cent of non-smokers said they would visit a pub more often if smoking was restricted. Even among smokers, the vast majority (85 per cent) said they would visit about as often as they do now, and only 12 per cent would visit less often.

Between 1996 and 2004, the percentage in favour of smoking restrictions also increased from 85 per cent to 91 per cent in restaurants, from 82 per cent to 93 per cent in other public places, and from 81 per cent to 88 per cent in the workplace.

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***\*Smoking related behaviour and attitudes, 2004***  
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Available free on the National Statistics website:  
[www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1638](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1638)



This survey on smoking behaviour and attitudes was carried out in 2004. It is the latest in a series carried out for the Department of Health as part of the ONS Omnibus Survey. The surveys were primarily designed to explore views on giving up smoking, second-hand smoking and smoking restrictions.

Other key findings include:

### **Giving up smoking**

- The percentage of current smokers who said they would like to give up smoking (73 per cent) was similar to figures for previous years (for example, 70 per cent of smokers wanted to give up in 2002 and 2003 and 72 per cent in 2001).
- Nearly nine out of ten (88 per cent) smokers who wanted to give up mentioned at least one health-related reason for wanting to give up smoking. The most common, mentioned by 68 per cent, was that it would be better for their health in general. More than one in four smokers (26 per cent) said they wanted to give up smoking because they could not afford to smoke or considered smoking a waste of money.
- Just over half (55 per cent) of smokers said that they intended to give up smoking within the next 12 months - this was similar to the figures for previous years. Compared with other smokers, those who intended to give up tended to be younger, more likely to smoke packeted cigarettes, and more likely to be aware of the effects of second-hand smoking on chest infections and cot death in children.

### **Attempts to give up smoking**

- Just under three quarters (74 per cent) of current smokers had tried to give up smoking, and a half (50 per cent) of current smokers had made a serious attempt in the past 5 years. The corresponding figures for 2003 were very similar: 78 per cent and 52 per cent respectively.
- About a quarter (23 per cent) of ex-smokers had given up within the past 5 years.



- Overall, 44 per cent of both current smokers and of those who had given up smoking in the past year had sought some kind of help or advice for stopping smoking.

### **Awareness of health risks associated with smoking**

- Over half of respondents (54 per cent) thought that the main cause of premature death in the United Kingdom (death before the age of 65) was smoking. This was an increase compared with 2003, when 48 per cent gave this answer.
- Awareness of the effects of second-hand smoking was widespread. Respectively, 90 per cent and 85 per cent of respondents thought that a child's risk of getting chest infections and asthma were increased by second-hand smoking. The percentages were similar to those found in 2003.

### **Non-smokers' attitudes towards people smoking near them**

- Sixty per cent of those who did not smoke (57 per cent of men and 63 per cent of women) said they would mind if other people smoked near them. This was higher than the percentages found in previous years (56 per cent in 2003).

### **Smokers' behaviour in the presence of non-smokers**

- Sixty-seven per cent of smokers said they did not smoke at all when in a room with a child (68 per cent in 2003) and 25 per cent said they would smoke fewer cigarettes in the presence of a child (24 per cent in 2003).
- The majority of smokers said they would modify their smoking in the company of adult non-smokers - 45 per cent would not smoke at all and 38 per cent would smoke fewer cigarettes. The percentages were similar to those found in 2003.

### **Smoking restrictions in public places**

- Half of respondents (51 per cent) who were in work said that smoking was not allowed at all on the premises where they worked - similar to the 50 per cent in 2003 but an increase from 40 per cent in 1996.



- More than four fifths of those interviewed agreed that there should be restrictions on smoking in indoor shopping centres (87 per cent), in indoor sports and leisure centres (93 per cent) and in indoor areas at railway and bus stations (82 per cent).
- Overall, the majority (94 per cent) of respondents agreed that there should be smoking restrictions in places where there are, or are likely to be, children under the age of 16, a slight increase from 92 per cent in 2003.

## BACKGROUND NOTES

1. The Omnibus Survey is a multi-purpose survey carried out by the ONS on behalf of a range of a range of government departments.
2. This survey on smoking behaviour and attitudes was conducted in October and November 2004 as part of the ONS Omnibus Survey.
3. Differences cited in the text are statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) unless otherwise stated.
4. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.
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