

YouGov Opinion Poll

December 2005

SmokefreeLegislation



Smokefree Action brings together leading UK health and medical organisations, professional bodies and other groups working towards smokefree workplaces and enclosed public places. Please see <http://www.smokefreeaction.org.uk/links.html> for a full list of members.

A major opinion poll on smoking in workplaces and public places, carried out by **You Gov** and commissioned by **Cancer Research UK** and **Action on Smoking and Health** shows that for the first time a majority (more than two thirds) now specifically support legislation making all pubs and bars smokefree. The poll shows similar results for England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

The results undermine claims by Government Ministers in evidence to the Health Select Committee that public opinion in Northern Ireland supported comprehensive legislation but that opinion in England does not.

Q501 Mr Amess: *was a partial ban with the exemptions that is being considered by the DH in England considered, and if it was considered why was it rejected by the Northern Ireland office?"*

Shaun Woodward ...*"By the time I became Minister for Health in Northern Ireland in May, I think the public there was ready for a comprehensive ban, and I think that needs to be distinguished from the position in England where I am not so sure that the public is ready for a comprehensive ban, but that is a decision for Health Ministers in England."*

Q553 Dr Naysmith *"Despite the figures you quoted earlier on there probably is support for a complete ban already."*

Caroline Flint *"I am afraid it would be nice to say there is, but even I think ASH, who produced a survey produced by MORI, I think, earlier this year, found that only 49% of the public were in favour of a complete ban.....We are going further in that respect than public opinion, because we recognise public opinion is moving."*

POLL RESULTS

Q. Please tell me how strongly, if at all, you would support or oppose a law to make pubs and bars smokefree?

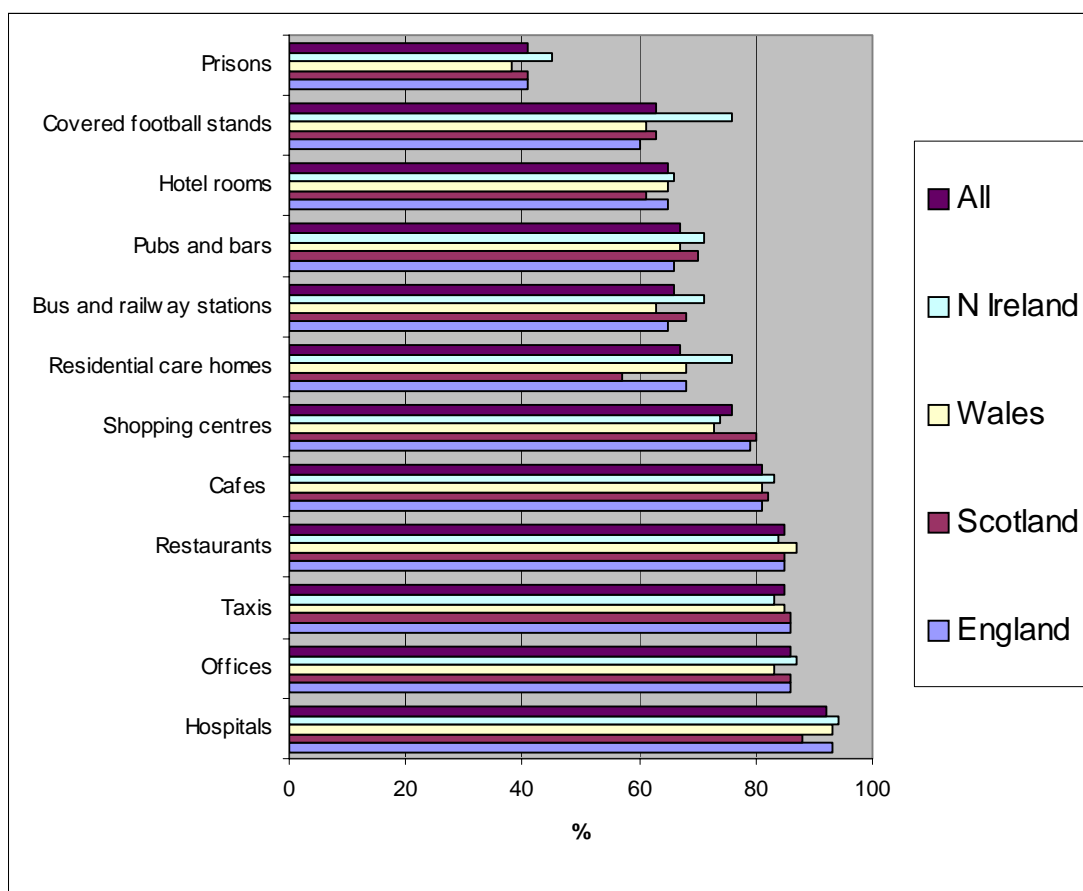
% who would support a law to make pubs and bars smokefree		England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	
	%	%	%	%	%	
MORI Apr/May 2004	GB	49	51	39	50	N/A
YouGov Dec 2005	UK	67	66	70	67	74

Q1 Looking at the following list of public places, please tell me how strongly, if at all, you would support or oppose a law to make it smokefree..

% who would support a law to make it smokefree

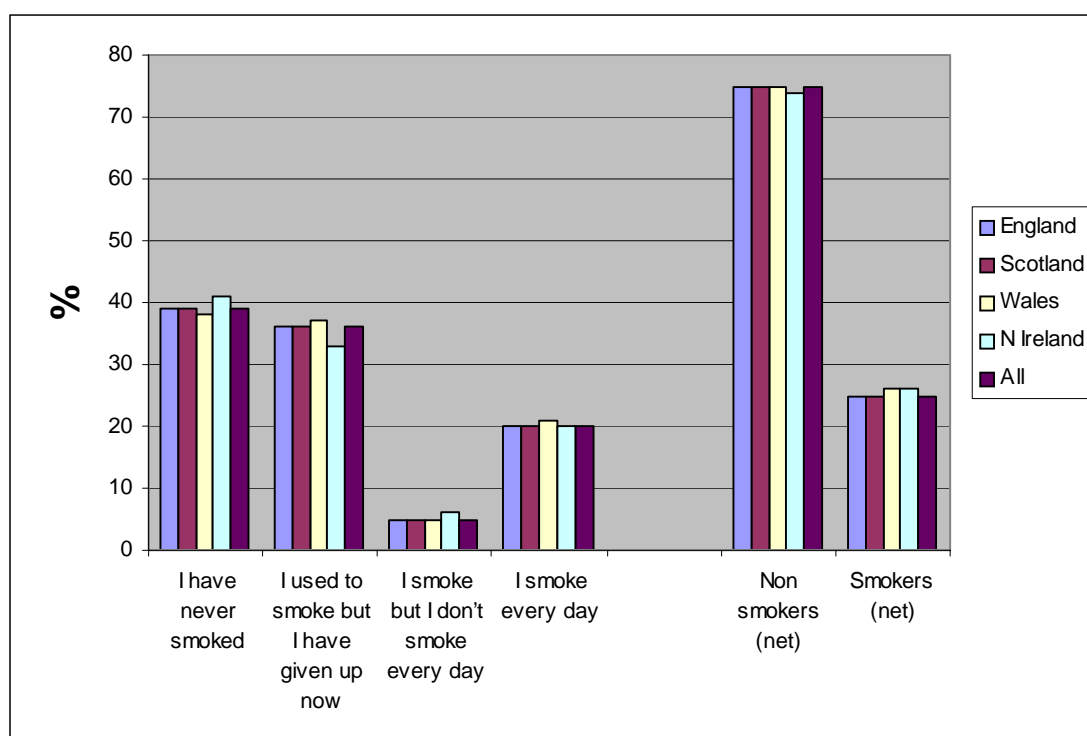
	England	Scotland	Wales	N Ireland	All
	%	%	%	%	%
Hospitals	93	88	93	94	93
Offices	86	86	83	87	86
Taxis	86	86	85	83	85
Restaurants	85	85	87	84	86
Cafes	81	82	81	83	81
Shopping centres	79	80	73	74	79
Residential care homes	68	57	68	76	67
Bus and railway stations	65	68	63	71	65
Pubs and bars	66	70	67	74	67
Hotel rooms	65	61	65	66	69
Covered football stands	60	63	61	76	61
Prisons	41	41	38	45	41

% who would support a law to make each public place smokefree by country



Q2 Which of the following statements best applies to you?

	England	Scotland	Wales	N Ireland
	%	%	%	%
I have never smoked	39	39	38	41
I used to smoke but I have given up now	36	36	37	33
I smoke but I don't smoke every day	5	5	5	6
I smoke every day	20	20	21	20
Non smokers (net)	75	75	75	74
Smokers (net)	25	25	26	26



The poll was conducted by polling firm YouGov and commissioned by Cancer Research UK and Action on Smoking and Health (ASH)

- Interviews conducted by YouGov using an internet panel survey with residents in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland aged 18 years and over.
- Sample sizes: England 1,995, Scotland 565, Wales 563, N Ireland 477. Total 3,600
- Fieldwork conducted 2-7 December 2005.
- All figures are %.
- Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.