

Public Survey Responses

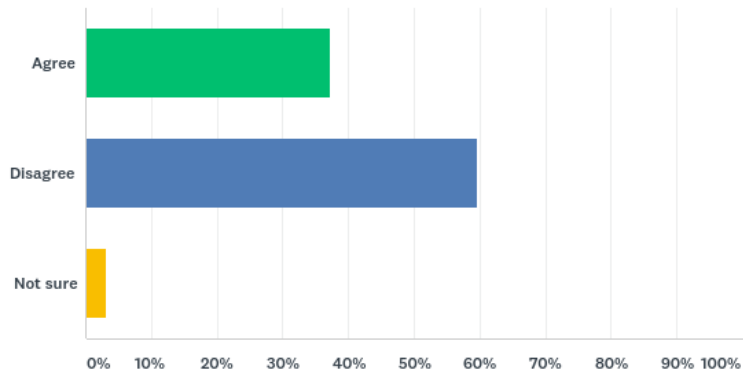
- Survey distributed via Healthwatch, social media: Twitter
- 191 responses
- Focus on: complete smoking ban at hospital sites and the impact of this for pregnant smokers and smokers with mental health issues as well as asking about how to support smokers



Questions and responses

Q1 Hospitals should be smoking free, both inside and in the grounds

Answered: 191 Skipped: 0

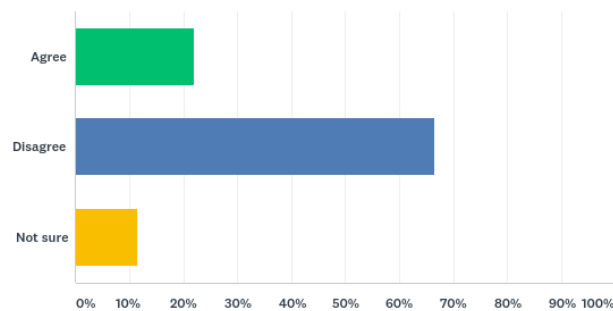


Agree: 37%
Disagree: 60%
Not sure: 3%

Agree: 22%
Disagree: 67%
Not sure: 12%

Q2 Should we use penalties – such as fines or refusal of treatment – if people smoke while in hospital?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 0



Q3 What would help people to not smoke when visiting a hospital?

- Large response asking for vaping and e-cigs to be permitted and promoted and for NRT to be provided
- Clear signage and public health campaign
- Security/monitoring and fines
- *High response rate for provision of designated outside smoking areas
- *Difference between those patients and people visiting hospital

“Hospitals are funded by every tax paying citizen in the U.K. And every tax paying citizen deserves some consideration”

“No hectoring. if they are adults and are not breaking the law, what right does anyone have to prevent them?”

“Speakers relaying ‘please do not smoke’ messages in the main areas where people smoke”

“Nothing. It's not the business of hospitals to regulate people's lifestyle choices”

“Clear signage and action by staff when they see someone smoking”

Q4 How can we make it easier for smokers to give up smoking while they are in hospital?

- Advice/support/information available and provided on admission
- NRT provided for free
- Permit vaping and e-cigs

“Ensure that strugglers (quitters) are not wafted by smoke (on the hospital site)”

“YOU CANT”

“Allow them to vape”

“In ways other than bullying and coercion”

“People who smoke enjoy and want to do it so forget it ! Stop imposing the will of none smokers on people who deserve some respect”

“Patient support group for each area”

Q5 How can we make it easier for smokers to give up smoking altogether?

- Main response was to increase information and access to NRT, vaping and e-cigs
- Support groups
- Education
- Increase tax on cigarettes

“Properly funded smoking support services”

“A drug which makes them feel sick when they smoke”

“Make your approach less combative and more voluntary”

“Make it illegal for people under 16 to smoke, and then raise that bar by one year each year, thereby phasing it out gradually and less painfully”

“Encourage smoking reduction first”

“Make it socially unacceptable. Ideally, ban their sale outright”

“No one will give up until they are either faced with a life threatening change or want to do it for themselves”

Q6 What impact would a complete smoking ban at hospital sites have on pregnant smokers and on smokers who have mental health issues?

- Overwhelming response that this was a bad idea for people with mental health issues, concern for making problems worse and that patients may avoid hospital appointments
- General view that for pregnant smokers it would be a positive impact for the baby

“Pregnant smokers really need educating”

“Heathy surrounds for everyone”

“It is particularly cruel to enforce abstinence on people going through a mental health crisis. Stop picking on vulnerable minority groups who are unable to defend themselves”

“It wouldn't have any impact because smokers seem to ignore the bans”

“Severe distress”

“Make them into pariahs”

“It will cause them to travel outside the grounds neither need the added pressure”

“Unfair discrimination”

“Immoral. No grounds for a total ban”

“An improvement in their health!”

Q7 What could be done to help and support pregnant smokers and smokers who have mental health issues?

- Promote and permit vaping and e-cigs
- Let smokers be/stop interfering
- Help and support available
- Similar responses to Q3,4 and 5

“Teach mothers how to care for a baby. Do not harass them about smoking”

“Compassion and help, not prejudice and hate”

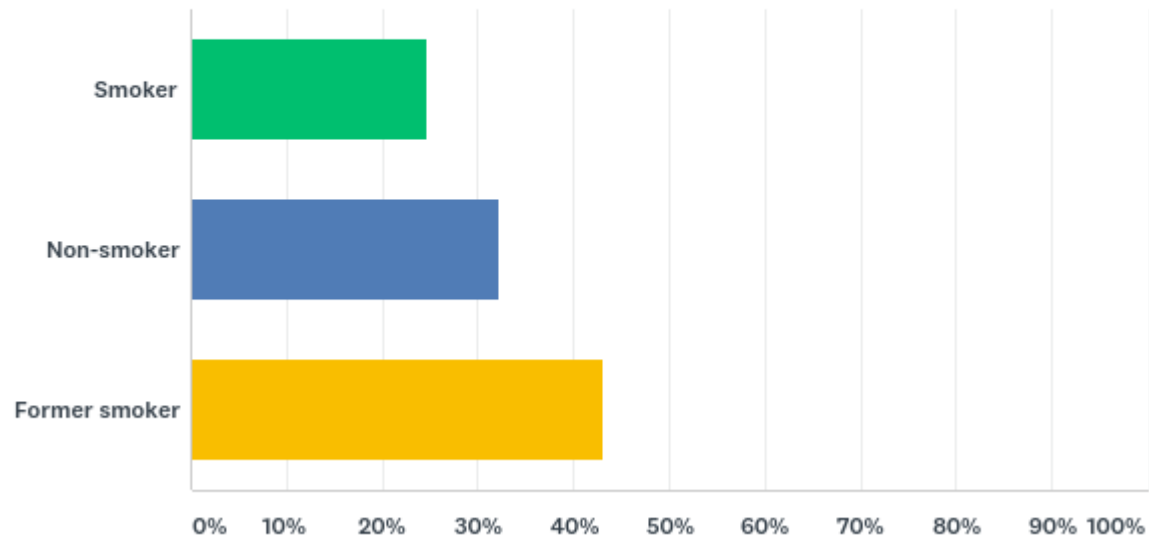
“Encourage everything in moderation & don't inflict bans on anyone outside in the fresh air. Allow people their rights”

“Stop meddling in their lifestyle choices; abolish the tobacco tax con; prosecute the anti-smoker cult leaders for their crimes against humanity”

Q9 Smoking status

Q9 Your smoking status:

Answered: 186 Skipped: 2



Smoker: 24%
Non-smoker: 33%
Former smoker: 42%