

# FACT SHEET

## Existence of and Public Support for Smokefree Policies

### Wyoming Tobacco Policies

In Wyoming, three communities (Laramie, Cheyenne, and Evanston) currently have citywide ordinances that prohibit smoking in restaurants *and* bars. Rock Springs, Green River, and Afton recently passed ordinances prohibiting smoking in restaurants.

The percentage of Wyoming smokefree policies in work places, homes, restaurants, and/or bars has increased in recent years.

- In 2006, 81% of adults who worked indoors most of the time reported that their workplace smoking policy did not allow smoking in any work area, compared to 73% in 1998.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2006, 78% of Wyoming respondents reported that smoking is not allowed inside their home, compared to 70% in 2003.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2006 (the first year for which data are available), 20% of Wyoming *bars* were smokefree indoors for customers.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2006, 75% of Wyoming restaurants were smokefree indoors for customers, compared to 46% in 2000 (Figure 1).<sup>2</sup>

### Public Opinion about Secondhand Smoke

After completion of the 2006 smokefree Wyoming media campaign,<sup>3</sup> survey results showed that of those surveyed:

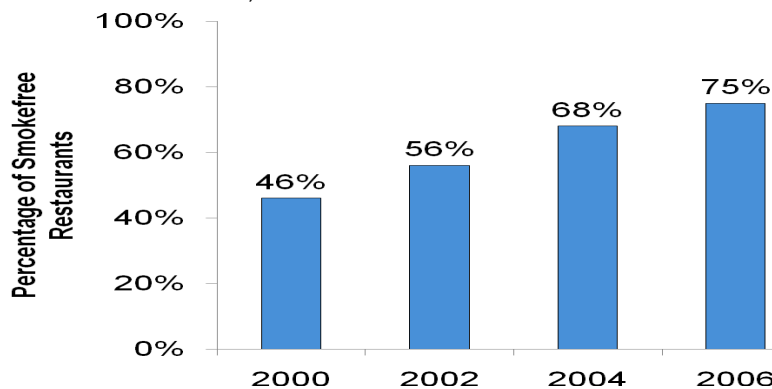
- 94% agreed that secondhand smoke hurts kids.

- 90% agreed that secondhand smoke causes some cancers.
- 86% agreed that employees at restaurants and bars that allow smoking are at a higher risk for cancer.
- 80% agreed that employees at restaurants and bars that allow smoking are at a higher risk for other health problems, such as heart and respiratory diseases.
- 75% agreed that secondhand smoke causes heart disease, while 13% were not sure or didn't know.
- 71% disagreed that brief exposure to secondhand smoke is safe.

Results from the 2007 *ATS*<sup>4</sup> show that of those surveyed:

- 96% agreed that smoking by a pregnant woman may harm the baby.
- 94% agreed that breathing smoke from other people's cigarettes causes respiratory problems in children.
- 93% agreed that breathing smoke from other people's cigarettes is harmful to one's health.
- 87% agreed that breathing smoke from other people's cigarettes causes lung cancer in adults.
- 77% agreed that breathing smoke from other people's cigarettes causes heart disease in adults, while 15% were not sure or didn't know.
- 40% agreed that breathing smoke from other people's cigarettes causes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) in children, while 45% were not sure or didn't know.

Figure 1. Percentage of Wyoming Restaurants That Were Smokefree Indoors for Customers, 2000–2006<sup>2</sup>



### WYSAC Fact Sheet: Existence of and Public Support for Smokefree Policies

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### Wyoming Survey & Analysis Center

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# FACT SHEET *cont.*

## Strong Support for Smokefree Policies

WYSAC surveys found that Wyoming residents supported the idea of local smokefree laws;<sup>3,4</sup> however, these feelings changed depending on the type of establishment affected by such a law.

- **Overall support:** 76% believed community laws should protect citizens from the risks associated with secondhand smoke.<sup>3</sup>
- **Indoor work areas:** 76% thought smoking should not be allowed at all in indoor work areas.<sup>4</sup>
- **Restaurants:** 69% thought smoking should not be allowed at all in indoor dining areas of restaurants<sup>4</sup> and 67% of survey respondents believed it was more important for employees to work in smokefree environments than for restaurant and bar owners to determine their own smoking policy.<sup>3</sup>
- **Bars/Cocktail lounges:** 38% thought smoking should not be allowed at all in bars and cocktail lounges.<sup>4</sup>

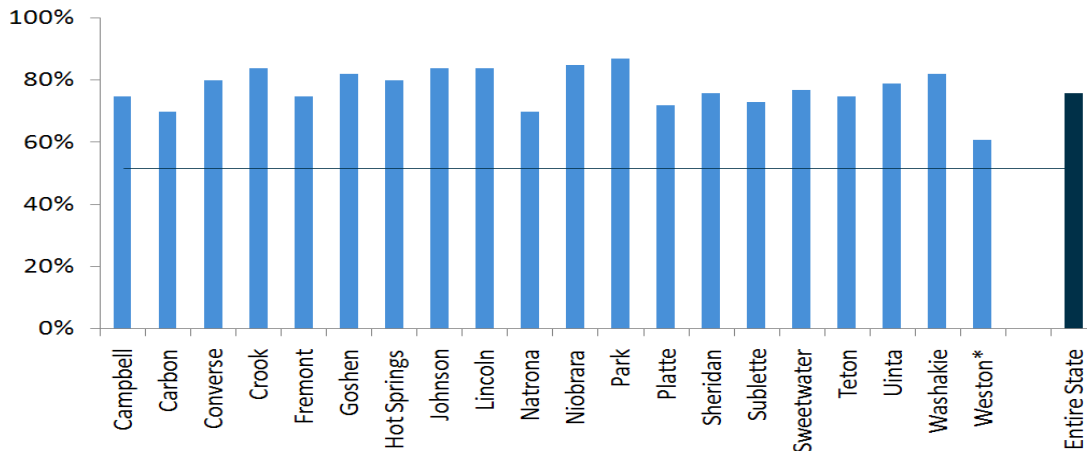
Overall, 76% of Wyoming residents would *vote* for a local law that would make restaurants smokefree.<sup>4</sup>

- 20 out of 21 counties would vote in favor of such a law. Thus, the results are representative of both the state as a whole and of the individual counties. (Figure 2).

Eight variables relate significantly to a person being happy or unhappy with a smokefree law.<sup>5</sup>

Individuals are more likely to be happy with a smokefree law if they...	This characteristic increases the odds of being happy by a factor of...
Are nonsmokers (as opposed to daily or occasional smokers)	7.4
Believe that a smokefree law is primarily an issue of health (and not rights)	6.2
Believe that a smokefree law is about an individual's right to smokefree air (and not about the business owners' right to decide their own smoking policy)	6.0
Believe that restaurants should be nonsmoking (as opposed to having designated smoking areas)	3.4
Believe that a smokefree law will have a positive effect on the city's public health (as opposed to no effect)	3.1
Believe that bars should be nonsmoking (as opposed to believing that smoking should be allowed in all areas of a bar)	2.5
Disagree with the statement, "A smokefree law takes away too much personal freedom" (as opposed to being neutral with the statement)	2.4
Strongly agree with the statement, "Breathing smoke from other people's cigarettes is harmful to one's health" (as opposed to just agreeing with the statement)	2.3

Figure 2. Percentage of Respondents Who Would Vote for a Local Smokefree Law, by County<sup>4</sup>



\*For this county, the proportion of respondents who would vote for a local smokefree law is *not* significantly greater than 50%.

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