

Tobacco Control Program

Macro Poll, November 2014

Overview

This summary highlights results from a poll conducted by ICF Macro for the Vermont Department of Health in November 2014. In addition to demographic questions, 5 tobacco-related topics were on the survey including questions about e-cigarette use in the workplace, smoking in vehicles when children are present, smoke-free housing, and smoking in public entryways. A sixth question dealt with legalization of marijuana. As a geographically representative, random digit dial telephone survey, the 400 respondents represent 497,194 adult Vermonters. The results in Tables 2 through 4 are weighted to represent the adult Vermont population. While these results are representative, in subgroup analyses, statistical power is limited due to small numbers.

In general, the results from the survey suggest support for limitations on smoking and/or smoking bans, particularly for vehicles when children are present. There was little variation in support by demographic subgroup but there were some nuances in groups that were more, or less, supportive than others.

Respondent Characteristics

Over half of the respondents were female, most were over 40 years old, had at least some post-high school education, and had children living at home (Table 1).

		Unweighted	
		n	%
Gender	Male	190	47.5
	Female	210	52.5
Age	18-29	25	6.3
	30-39	47	11.8
	40-49	56	14.0
	50-59	101	25.3
	60-69	82	20.5
	70+	75	18.8
Voter Status	Registered voter	348	87.0
	Not registered voter	52	13.0
Education Level	Less than high school degree	19	4.8
	High school diploma or GED	95	23.8
	Some college	60	15.0
	2 year college degree	54	13.5
	4 year college degree	90	22.5
	Post-graduate degree	73	18.3
Household Type	Individual living alone	101	25.3
	Single HH with children	31	7.8
	Couple living with children	94	23.5
	Couple living without children	136	34.0

Smoking electronic devices in workplaces

Over half (54%) of the respondents thought that electronic smoking devices should not be allowed in workplaces. Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to support banning electronic smoking devices in workplaces and support increased as respondent age and education increased. A marked difference was observed based on participant voter status; registered voters were more likely to support a ban on electronic smoking devices in the workplace while unregistered voters were more likely to support some use of electronic smoking devices in the workplace.

Marijuana legalization and youth use

Nearly two-thirds (64%) of respondents believed that legalization of marijuana would result in increased use among youth. Respondents were somewhat more likely to believe that usage would increase slightly rather than significantly and there was little variation by gender, age, education, household type and voting status. The main exception was among older respondents and those with less education. More than half of those aged 70 and older and over one-third with a high school diploma/GED thought that legalization of marijuana would result in a significant increase in use among youth.

Tables 2: Smoking non-tobacco substances

		Support for e-cigarette use in workplaces		Opinion on impact of marijuana legalization on youth use	
		Sometimes allowed %	Never Allowed %	Use will increase slightly %	Use will increase significantly %
Total		29.1	54.4	36.0	27.8
Gender	Male	28.9	45.8	37.0	24.8
	Female	29.3	62.6	35.0	30.4
Age	18-29	--	--	--	--
	30-39	--	--	--	--
	40-49	33.3	46.0	37.5	25.1
	50-59	24.8	60.1	32.5	26.9
	60-69	26.6	63.5	35.8	38.8
	70+	8.9	79.1	25.2	56.0
	Education Level	Less than high school degree	--	--	--
High school diploma or GED		23.7	51.4	37.1	36.6
Some college		45.3	40.8	42.3	15.8
2 year college degree		16.8	65.1	35.3	18.1
4 year college degree		19.8	73.2	32.8	23.6
Post-graduate degree		23.8	71.6	39.5	25.7
Household Type	Individual living alone	40.9	50.4	36.7	30.0
	Single HH with children	--	--	--	--
	Couple living with children	17.7	63.6	33.2	25.6
Voter Status	Couple living without children	22.3	61.0	37.2	30.8
	Registered voter	23.5	60.7	37.5	27.5
	Not registered voter	51.3	29.4	30.0	28.3

'--' represent cells with too few respondents for analysis

Smoking bans in vehicles

There was overwhelming support (86%) for banning cigarette smoking in vehicles while children are present. The majority of all demographic groups supported a complete ban and support has increased since 2012 (81%). The age of the child was not an important factor for respondents. The vast majority of respondents did not distinguish between children younger than 8 years old and children 8 years old or older when determining the importance of banning smoking in vehicles when children are present.

Table 3: Smoking bans in vehicles

		Support for vehicle smoking bans when child present		Importance of child's age when smoking in vehicle	
		Sometimes allowed	Never allowed	Important	Not important
		%	%	%	%
Total		4.9	86.3	10.9	85.5
Gender	Male	4.4	84.4	14.8	82.9
	Female	5.3	88.1	7.2	87.9
Age	18-29	--	--	--	--
	30-39	--	--	--	--
	40-49	--	71.8	21.5	77.2
	50-59	6.9	90.2	9.3	88.0
	60-69	--	85.8	5.0	86.1
	70+	--	94.7	--	93.8
	Education Level	Less than high school degree	--	--	--
High school diploma or GED		6.0	86.0	9.6	87.1
Some college		--	81.6	9.7	88.4
2 year college degree		--	84.3	26.6	73.4
4 year college degree		3.3	96.7	2.7	92.7
Post-graduate degree		--	96.3	9.6	89.9
Household Type	Individual living alone	6.0	84.7	9.4	88.4
	Single HH with children	--	--	--	--
	Couple living with children	--	93.7	12.5	86.1
Voter Status	Couple living without children	3.3	91.4	10.4	86.3
	Registered voter	5.6	86.8	8.8	87.5
	Not registered voter	--	84.3	19.2	77.3

'--' represent cells with too few respondents for analysis

Smoke-free homes and entryways

The majority of respondents indicated that they would be likely (57%) to choose housing with smoke free policies over equivalent housing without policies, a decrease from 69% in 2012. There was little variation among demographic groups among those who reported they would be extremely likely to choose housing with smoke-free policies.

Over half of respondents (55%) supported smoking bans within 25 feet of building entryways. Respondents of lower age, with less education, who are living alone or are unregistered voters, were less supportive of smoking bans within 25 feet of building entryways.

Table 4: Smoke free homes and entryways

		How likely to choose smoke free housing		Support for bans within 25 feet of public building entryways	
		Somewhat likely %	Extremely likely %	Sometimes allowed %	Never allowed %
Total		12.1	45.2	25.6	54.6
Gender	Male	15.0	42.2	31.6	44.5
	Female	9.3	48.1	19.9	64.1
Age	18-29	--	--	--	--
	30-39	--	--	--	--
	40-49	13.8	44.5	21.4	52.8
	50-59	14.6	48.3	21.4	48.8
	60-69	14.3	40.1	13.2	66.9
	70+	8.9	45.2	22.3	65.5
	Education Level	Less than high school degree	--	--	--
High school diploma or GED		21.6	34.9	29.6	50.5
Some college		10.9	57.8	25.2	57.2
2 year college degree		--	48.3	28.1	44.9
4 year college degree		4.7	56.7	16.4	67.2
Post-graduate degree		6.2	52.6	20.1	64.8
Household Type	Individual living alone	--	--	27.3	43.3
	Single HH with children	--	--	--	--
	Couple living with children	--	52.9	31.4	56.3
	Couple living without children	10.1	45.7	18.8	59.2
Voter Status	Registered voter	10.7	46.8	21.5	58.1
	Not registered voter	17.6	38.8	41.8	40.8

--' represent cells with too few respondents for analysis