



Support for Smoke-Free Public Places

Collected May 2011 – December 2011

Analyzed May 2013

Monitor Introduction

The purpose of the Support for Smoke-Free Public Places module is to measure public support for smoke-free public places that are not covered under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act of 2006. This module also provides information that supports health units in complying with the Chronic Diseases and Injuries Program Standards 6 from the 2008 Ontario Public Health Standards. Specifically, this standard states “the board of health shall work with municipalities to support healthy public policies and the creation or enhancement of supportive environments in recreational settings and the built environment regarding ... comprehensive tobacco control”. The Ontario Public Health Standards can be found at: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/docs/ophs_2008.pdf.

Fast Facts:

- Per cent of adults that would support a local by-law to make public playgrounds smoke-free: **91.0%** (CI: 88.9-93.1).
- Per cent of adults that would support a local by-law to make public patios that serve food or drink smoke-free: **78.3%** (CI: 75.3-81.4)
- Per cent of adults who would support local by-laws to make public playgrounds, public beaches, sports fields and spectator areas, doorways to workplaces and public places, and public patios serving food or drinks smoke-free: **65.2%** (CI: 61.7-68.7)

In 2011, there were 813 adults aged 18 years and older in Waterloo Region included in this module. The questions in this module were asked from May to December 2011 (cycles 8 and 9). Estimates are presented with 95% confidence intervals (CI) and appear in the following format: (CI: xx.x-xx.x). Tests of significance were performed on the data and all statistically significant differences were determined by p-values less than 0.05.

Nine out of ten Waterloo Region adults would support a local by-law that would make public playgrounds smoke-free

In 2011, **91.0%** (CI: 88.9-93.1) of Waterloo Region adults reported that they would support a local by-law making public playgrounds smoke-free. Most adults (**76.2%** (CI: 73.0-79.4)) would strongly support this by-law while **14.8%** (CI: 12.1-17.5) would somewhat support this by-law.

Significant differences existed by age group and geography

Adult respondents aged 18 to 24 years were significantly more likely to support smoke-free public playgrounds than adults aged 45 to 64 years (Table 1).

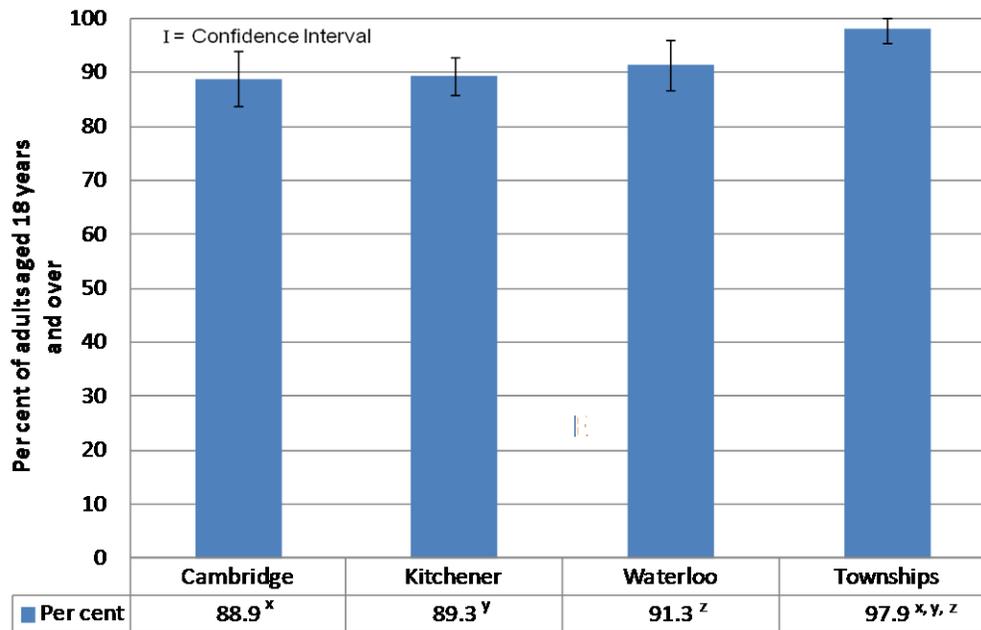
Table 1: Per cent of adults that would support a local by-law making public playgrounds smoke-free, by age group, Waterloo Region, 2011

	18 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and older
Support smoke-free public playgrounds	98.8% (CI: 96.5-100.0) ^x	91.6% (CI: 87.8-95.5)	87.8% (CI: 84.0-91.6) ^x	92.5% (CI: 88.2-96.7)

x,y,z ... Represent statistically significant differences between two proportions (%) with a p-value of less than 0.05, e.g. two proportions with an "x" next to them are statistically different from each other.

As well, adults who reside in the Townships were significantly more likely to support a local by-law that would make playgrounds smoke-free than adults residing in Cambridge, Kitchener, or Waterloo (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Per cent of adults that would support a local by-law making public playgrounds smoke-free, by geography, Waterloo Region, 2011



x,y,z ... Represent statistically significant differences between two proportions (%) with a p-value of less than 0.05, e.g. two proportions with an "x" next to them are statistically different from each other.

There were no significant differences in those that would support making public playgrounds smoke-free by sex, education level, or level of household income.

Four out of five Waterloo Region adults would support a local by-law that would make public beaches smoke-free

When asked about public beaches, **80.5%** (CI: 77.5-83.5) of Waterloo Region adults reported that they would support a local by-law making them smoke-free. More than half of adults (**59.2%** (CI: 55.5-62.9)) would strongly support a by-law and one-fifth (**21.3%** (CI: 18.2-24.4)) would somewhat support a by-law.

Ninety per cent of adults that reside in the Townships would support making public beaches smoke-free

In 2011, Waterloo Region adults that reside in the Townships were significantly more likely to report supporting a local by-law to make public beaches smoke-free than those residing in Cambridge or Kitchener. As well, adults living in the City of Waterloo were significantly more likely to support smoke-free public beaches than those in Kitchener (Table 2).

Table 2: Per cent of adults that would support a local by-law making public beaches smoke-free, by geography, Waterloo Region, 2011

	Cambridge	Kitchener	Waterloo	Townships
Support smoke-free public beaches	79.0% (CI: 71.9-86.1) ^x	75.7% (CI: 70.8-80.6) ^{y, z}	85.0% (CI: 79.5-90.6) ^y	90.0% (CI: 84.4-95.5) ^{x, z}

x,y,z ...Represent statistically significant differences between two proportions (%) with a p-value of less than 0.05, e.g. two proportions with an "x" next to them are statistically different from each other.

No other statistically significant differences existed by age group, sex, education level, or level of household income.

Approximately 85 per cent of Waterloo Region adults would support a local by-law making outdoor public sports fields and spectator areas smoke-free

Overall, **85.2%** (CI: 82.5-87.9) of adults reported some level of support for making outdoor public sports fields and spectator areas smoke-free (**66.0%** (CI: 62.4-69.5) would strongly support and **19.2%** (CI: 16.3-22.1) would somewhat support a by-law).

Significant differences existed by geography

Waterloo Region adults that reside in Waterloo or the Townships were significantly more likely to support a by-law for smoke-free outdoor public sports fields and spectator areas than adults that reside in Kitchener (Table 3).

Table 3: Per cent of adults that would support a local by-law making outdoor public sports fields and spectator areas smoke-free, by geography, Waterloo Region, 2011

	Cambridge	Kitchener	Waterloo	Townships
Support smoke-free outdoor sports fields	84.8% (CI: 78.4-91.2)	80.9% (CI: 76.4-85.5) ^{x, y}	89.6% (CI: 84.9-94.3) ^x	91.7% (CI: 86.6-96.9) ^y

x,y,z ...Represent statistically significant differences between two proportions (%) with a p-value of less than 0.05, e.g. two proportions with an "x" next to them are statistically different from each other.

No other statistically significant differences existed by age group, sex, education level, or level of household income.

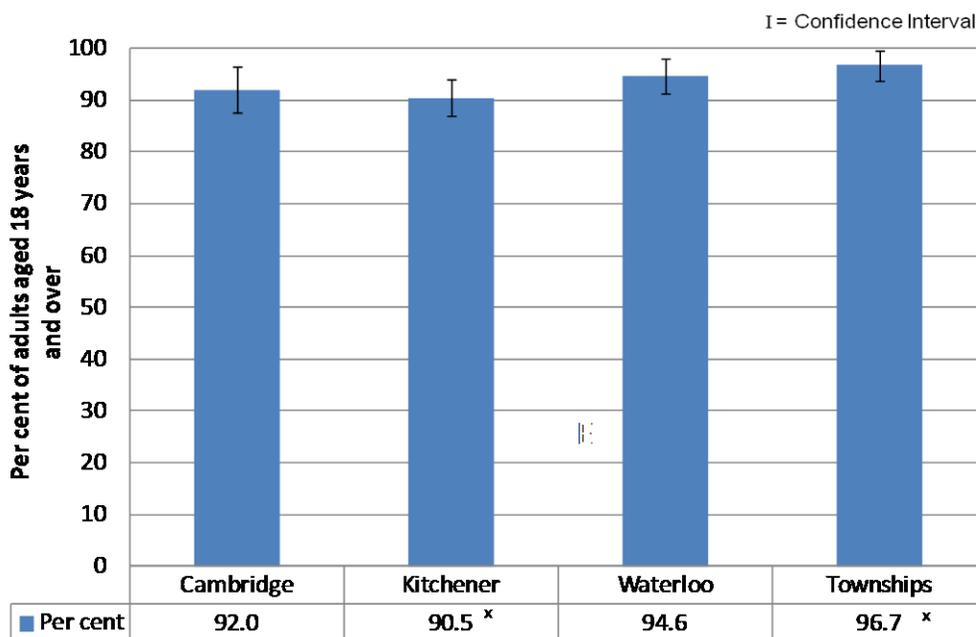
Over 90 per cent of Waterloo Region adults would support a local by-law making doorways to workplaces smoke-free

In 2011, **92.6%** (CI: 90.6-94.6) of adults stated that they would support a local by-law that would make doorways to workplaces smoke-free. Most adults (**79.0%** (CI: 75.9-82.1)) would strongly support a by-law while **13.6%** (CI: 11.0-16.2) would somewhat support a by-law.

Significant differences existed by geography

Waterloo Region adults who reside in the Townships were significantly more likely to support a by-law for smoke-free doorways to workplaces than adults who reside in Kitchener (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Per cent of adults that would support a local by-law making doorways to workplaces smoke-free, by geography, Waterloo Region, 2011



x,y,z ...Represent statistically significant differences between two proportions (%) with a p-value of less than 0.05, e.g. two proportions with an "x" next to them are statistically different from each other.

There were no significant differences in the proportion of adults that would support a by-law for smoke-free doorways to workplaces when categorized by age group, sex, education level, or level of household income.

Nine out of ten Waterloo Region adults would support a local by-law making doorways to public places smoke-free

In 2011, **93.5%** (CI: 91.6-95.4) of Waterloo Region adults reported that they would support a local by-law that would make doorways to public places smoke-free. More than three-quarters of adults (**80.7%** (CI: 77.7-83.7)) would strongly support a by-law and **12.8%** (CI: 10.3-15.3) would somewhat support a by-law.

Significant differences existed by geography

Waterloo Region adults who reside in the Townships were significantly more likely to support a by-law for smoke-free doorways to public places than adults who reside in Kitchener (Figure 2).

Table 4: Per cent of adults that support a local by-law making doorways to public places smoke-free, by geography, Waterloo Region, 2011

	Cambridge	Kitchener	Waterloo	Townships
Support smoke-free outdoor sports fields	93.4% (CI: 89.5-97.4)	91.2% (CI: 87.6-94.8) ^x	95.4% (CI: 92.4-98.5)	97.6% (CI: 95.0-100.0) ^x

x,y,z ... Represent statistically significant differences between two proportions (%) with a p-value of less than 0.05, e.g. two proportions with an "x" next to them are statistically different from each other.

There were no significant differences in the proportion of adults that would support a local by-law for smoke-free doorways to public places when categorized by age group, sex, education level, or level of household income.

Three quarters of Waterloo Region adults would support a local by-law making all outdoor public patios where food and drink are sold or served smoke-free

Overall, **78.3%** (CI: 75.3-81.4) of adults reported that they would support a local by-law that would make all outdoor public patios where food and drink are sold or served smoke-free (**60.7%** (CI: 57.0-64.4) would strongly support and **17.7%** (CI: 14.7-20.6) would somewhat support a by-law).

Significant differences existed by age group, sex, and geography

In 2011, Waterloo Region adults aged 65 years and older were significantly more likely to support making outdoor public patios smoke-free than adults aged 25 to 44 years (Table 5).

Table 5: Per cent of adults that would support a local by-law making all outdoor public patios where food and drink are sold or served smoke-free, by age group, Waterloo Region, 2011

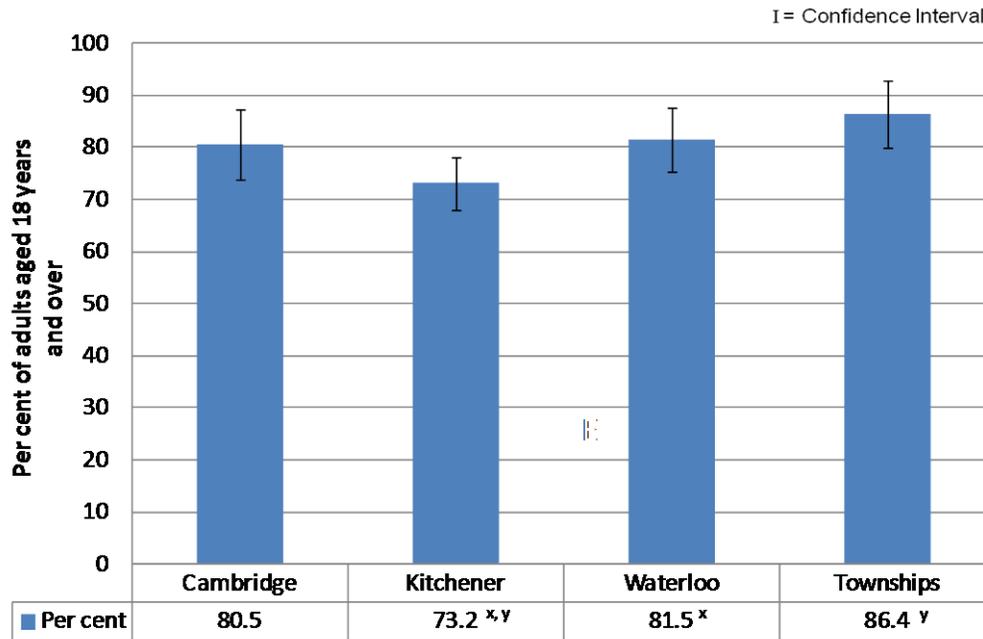
	18 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and older
Support smoke-free patios	83.0% (CI: 73.1-93.0)	74.5% (CI: 68.7-80.3) ^x	77.5% (CI: 72.7-82.3)	84.7% (CI: 78.7-90.8) ^x

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As well, Waterloo Region females were significantly more likely to support smoke-free outdoor patios than male respondents (**81.4%** (CI: 77.5-85.3) versus **74.6%** (CI: 69.7-79.5)).

Adults who reside in Kitchener were significantly less likely to support smoke-free outdoor patios where food and drink are sold and served than adults who reside in Waterloo and the Townships (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Per cent of adults that would support a local by-law making all outdoor public patios where food and drink are sold or served smoke-free, by geography, Waterloo Region, 2011



No other significant differences existed by education level or level of household income.

Overall, a majority of Waterloo Region adults would support local by-laws that would make public playgrounds, public beaches, sports fields and spectator areas, doorways to workplaces and public places, and public patios serving food or drinks smoke-free

In 2011, **65.2%** (CI: 61.7-68.7) of Waterloo Region adults reported that they would support local by-laws to make public playgrounds, public beaches, sports fields and spectator areas, doorways to workplaces and public places, and public patios serving food or drinks smoke-free.

Significant differences existed by education level, household income, and geography

Waterloo Region adults with a post-secondary degree were significantly more likely to support by-laws that would make playgrounds, beaches, sports fields, doorways to workplaces and public places, and patios smoke free than adults with a high school diploma or less than a high school education (Table 6).

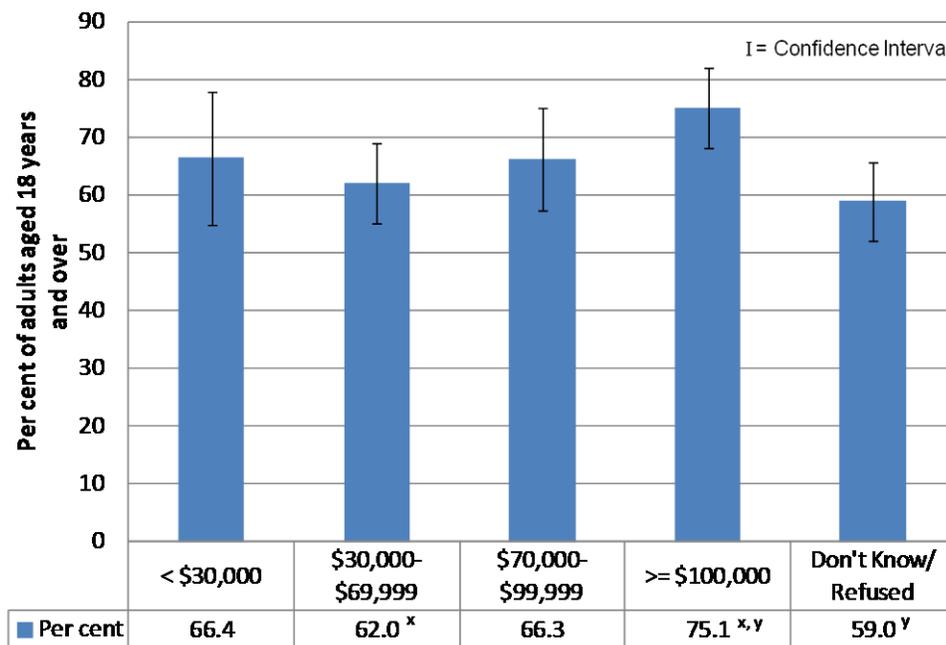
Table 6: Per cent of adults that would support a local by-law making public playgrounds, public beaches, sports fields and spectator areas, doorways to workplaces and public places, and patios serving food or drinks smoke free, by education level, Waterloo Region, 2011

	Less than High School	High School Diploma	Some Post-Secondary	Post-Secondary Degree
Support all areas to be smoke-free	53.5% (CI: 42.5-64.5) ^x	58.2% (CI: 50.7-65.7) ^y	68.4% (CI: 55.6-81.1)	69.6% (CI: 65.1-74.1) ^{x, y}

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Adults in Waterloo Region with a household income of \$100,000 or more were significantly more likely to support by-laws making all of these public places smoke-free when compared to those with a household income of \$30,000 to \$69,999 or those that did not know or refused to state their household income (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Per cent of adults that would support a local by-law making public playgrounds, public beaches, sports fields and spectator areas, doorways to workplaces and public places, and patios serving food or drinks smoke free, by household income, Waterloo Region, 2011



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Waterloo Region adults who reside in the Townships were significantly more likely to support by-laws making all of these public areas smoke-free than adults who reside in either Cambridge or Kitchener (Table 7).

Table 7: Per cent of adults that would support a local by-law making public playgrounds, public beaches, sports fields and spectator areas, doorways to workplaces and public places, and patios serving food or drinks smoke free, by geography, Waterloo Region, 2011

	Cambridge	Kitchener	Waterloo	Townships
Support all areas to be smoke-free	66.1% (CI: 58.2-74.1) ^x	59.5% (CI: 53.9-65.0) ^y	67.6% (CI: 60.2-75.0)	77.9% (CI: 70.6-85.2) ^{x, y}

x,y,z ...Represent statistically significant differences between two proportions (%) with a p-value of less than 0.05, e.g. two proportions with an "x" next to them are statistically different from each other.

There were no significant differences in the proportion of adults that would support all of these by-laws for smoke-free public places by age group or sex.

About RRFSS survey

Information here is presented from the Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS). RRFSS is an on-going telephone survey occurring in participating public health units across Ontario. On a monthly basis, a random sample of approximately 100 adults aged 18 and older are interviewed regarding risk behaviours of importance to public health. The survey is conducted by the Institute for Social Research (ISR) at York University, on behalf of Region of Waterloo Public Health. For more information, please visit www.rffss.ca.

Analyzed Questions (Total Weighted Sample = 813)

- Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose a local by-law making public playgrounds smoke-free? (weighted n=813)
- Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose a local by-law making public beaches smoke-free? (weighted n=813)
- Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose a local by-law making outdoor public sports fields and spectator areas smoke-free? (weighted n=813)
- Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose a local by-law making DOORWAYS to WORKPLACES smoke-free? (weighted n=813)
- Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose a local by-law making doorways to PUBLIC PLACES smoke-free? (weighted n=813)
- Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose a local by-law making all outdoor public patios where food and drink are sold or served smoke-free? (weighted n=813)

Analyzed Indicators

- Per cent of adults (18+) that strongly or somewhat support a local by law making public playgrounds smoke-free
- Per cent of adults (18+) that strongly or somewhat support a local by law making public beaches smoke-free
- Per cent of adults (18+) that strongly or somewhat support a local by law making public sport fields and spectator areas smoke-free
- Per cent of adults (18+) that strongly or somewhat support a local by law making doorways to workplaces smoke-free
- Per cent of adults (18+) that strongly or somewhat support a local by law making doorways to public places smoke-free

- Per cent of adults (18+) that strongly or somewhat support a local by law making all outdoor public patios where food and drink are sold or served smoke-free
- Per cent of adults (18+) that strongly or somewhat support a local by law making public playgrounds, public beaches, sports fields and spectator areas, doorways to workplaces and public places, and public patios serving food or drinks smoke-free

Important definitions and cautions

- All data were analyzed according to the RRFSS Manual of Operations. The superscript “E” denotes high sampling variability, and estimates must be interpreted with caution. The superscript “F” denotes unacceptable sampling variability, and estimates or conclusions based on these data will be unreliable and most likely invalid. The sample was weighted to reflect the number of adults in a household.
- A "module" in RRFSS is generally a self-contained group of questions on a specific public health topic. Generally, modules may be added or taken off the RRFSS every four month period (cycle) of the on-going survey system.
- Confidence intervals (an estimated range of values in which the true parameter likely lies) and coefficient of variation (a measure of the distribution of data points) were calculated using unweighted sample sizes and weighted estimates.
- Chi Square tests of significance were performed and statistically significant differences were determined by p-values less than 0.05.
- The survey was only administered in English, using a random digit dialing methodology and represents the behaviours, attitudes, and beliefs of adults in Waterloo Region.
- Responses which include “don’t know” and “refused” are generally removed from analysis when they represent less than 5% of the sample.

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