

Changes from 2000 to 2004 in U.S. Adult Attitudes and Practices Regarding Children's Exposure to Second Hand Smoke

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Background

- In 2000, we presented findings from a comprehensive survey of United States adults' attitudes and practices regarding tobacco control and children's exposure to second hand smoke (SHS).
- We now have 5 years of cross-sectional data that allows us to monitor changes that have occurred during the period in which numerous state and national tobacco control programs have been implemented.



An Institutional Approach



Social Climate Survey for Tobacco Control

- Provides timely, comprehensive data about tobacco control attitudes and practices
- Objectively measures and monitors progress towards intermediate objectives
- Annual cross-sectional assessments including physician screening, counseling and tobacco cessation practices

Social Climate Survey - Tobacco Control

- Questions developed to measure attitudes, practices, and knowledge
- Previously validated questions drawn from state and national tobacco control surveys
 - Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
 - Tobacco Use Supplement – Current Population Survey
 - California Adult Tobacco Survey

Design and Methods

- National random digit dial telephone survey
- July to September 2000 & 2004
- Weighted by race and gender based on U.S. Census

Results

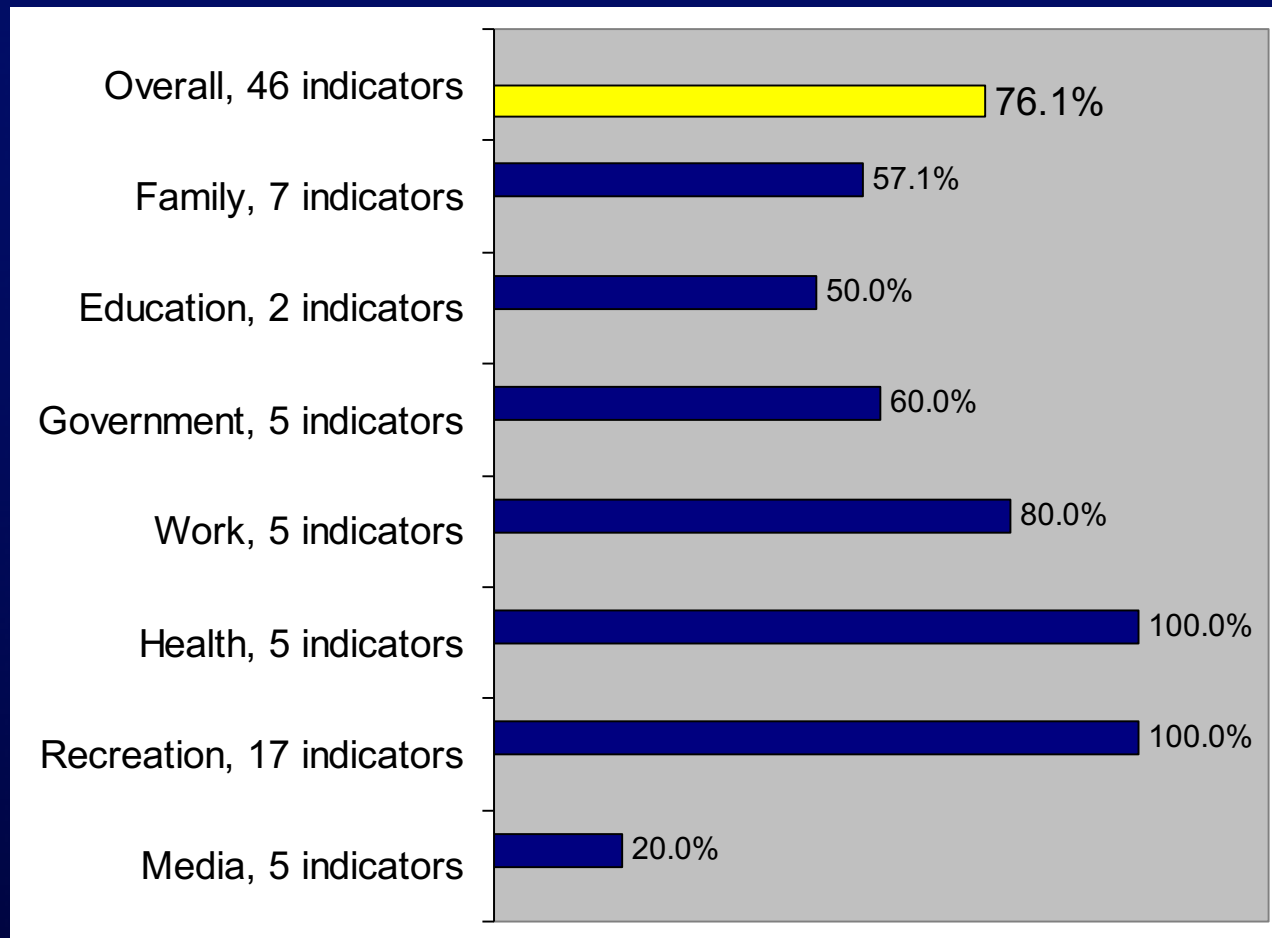
2000

- 2,007 eligible respondents
- 1,503 (74.9%) completed surveys

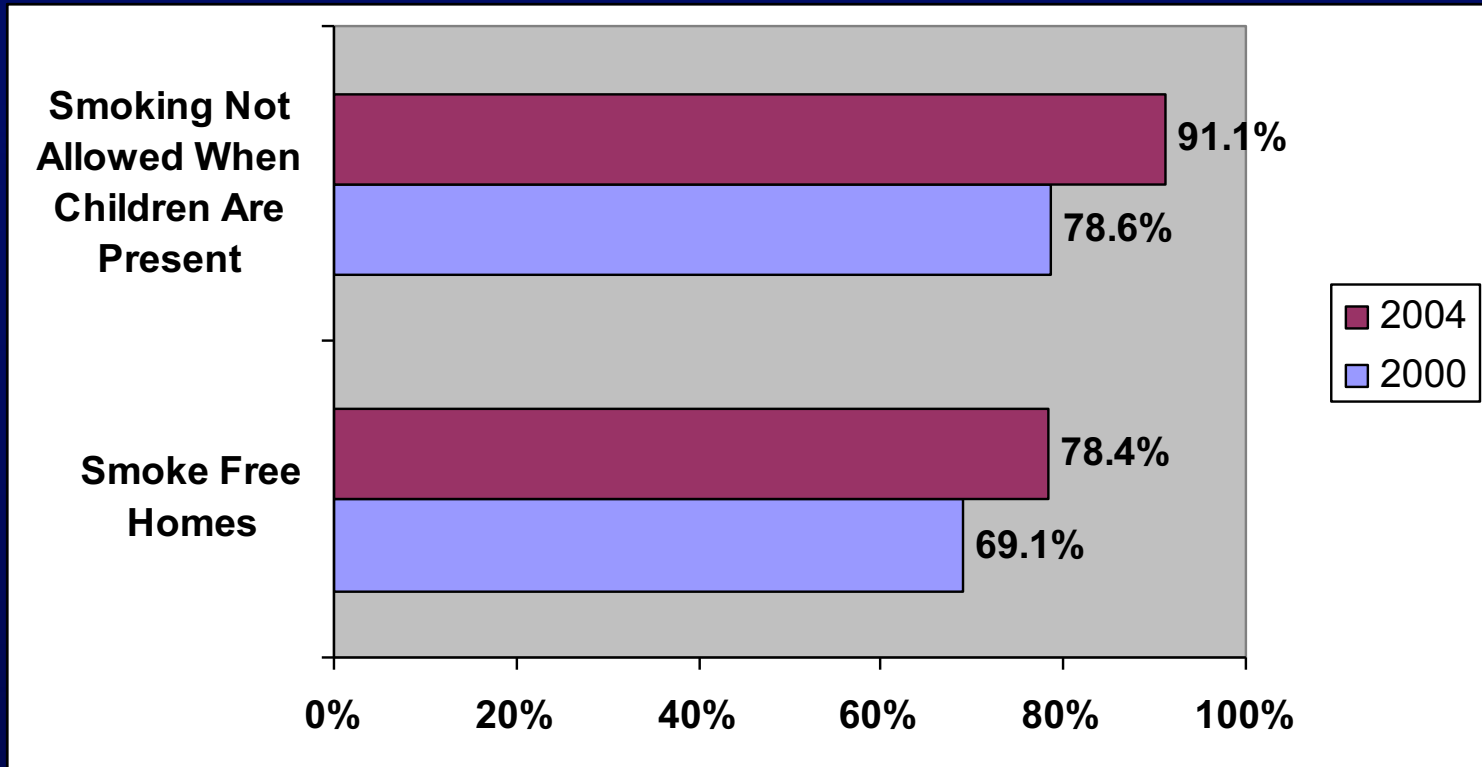
2004

- 3,615 eligible respondents
- 3,011 (83.3%) completed surveys

Percent of all social climate indicators which improved from 2000 to 2004, $p < .05$

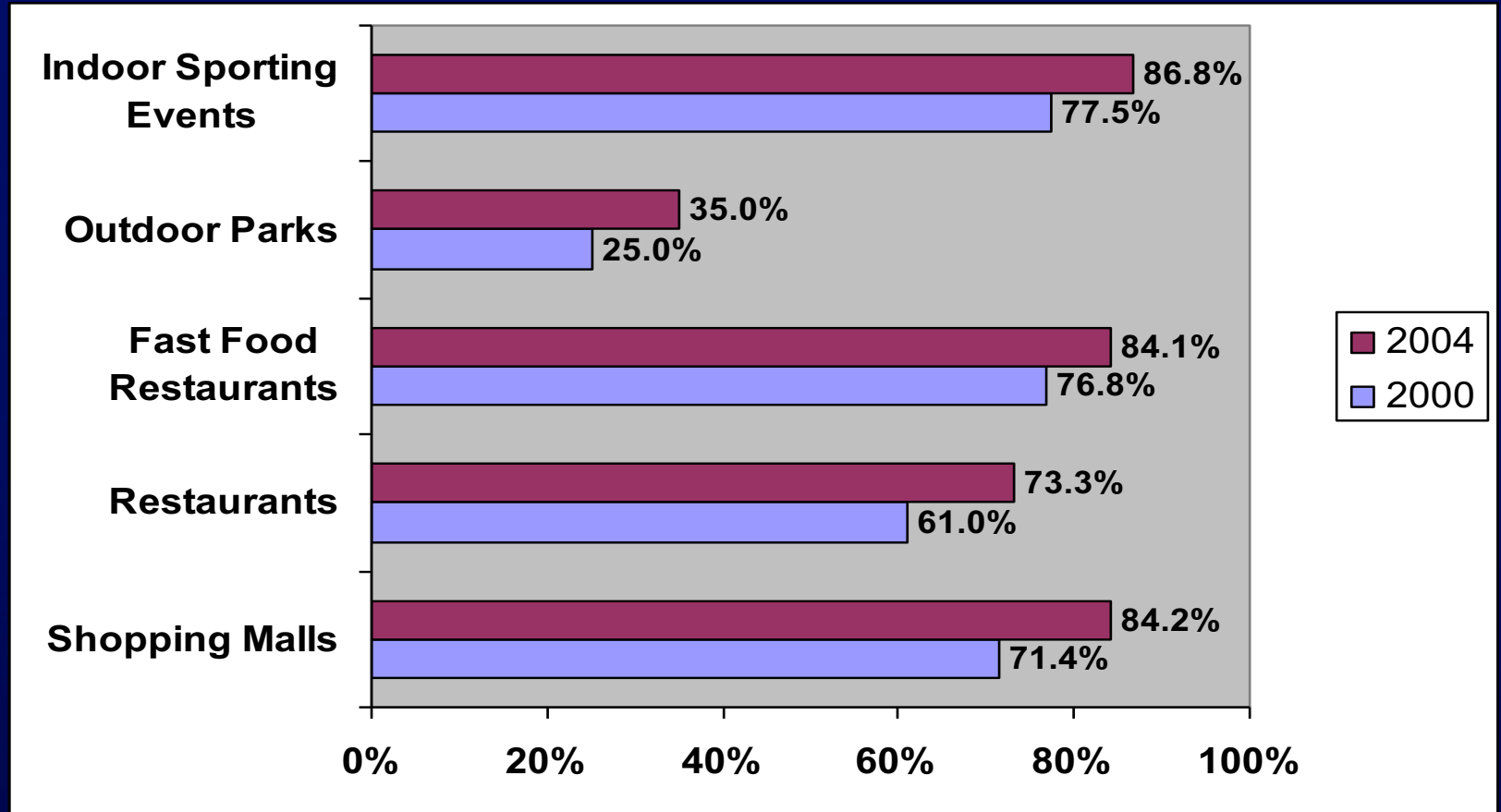


Household Practices



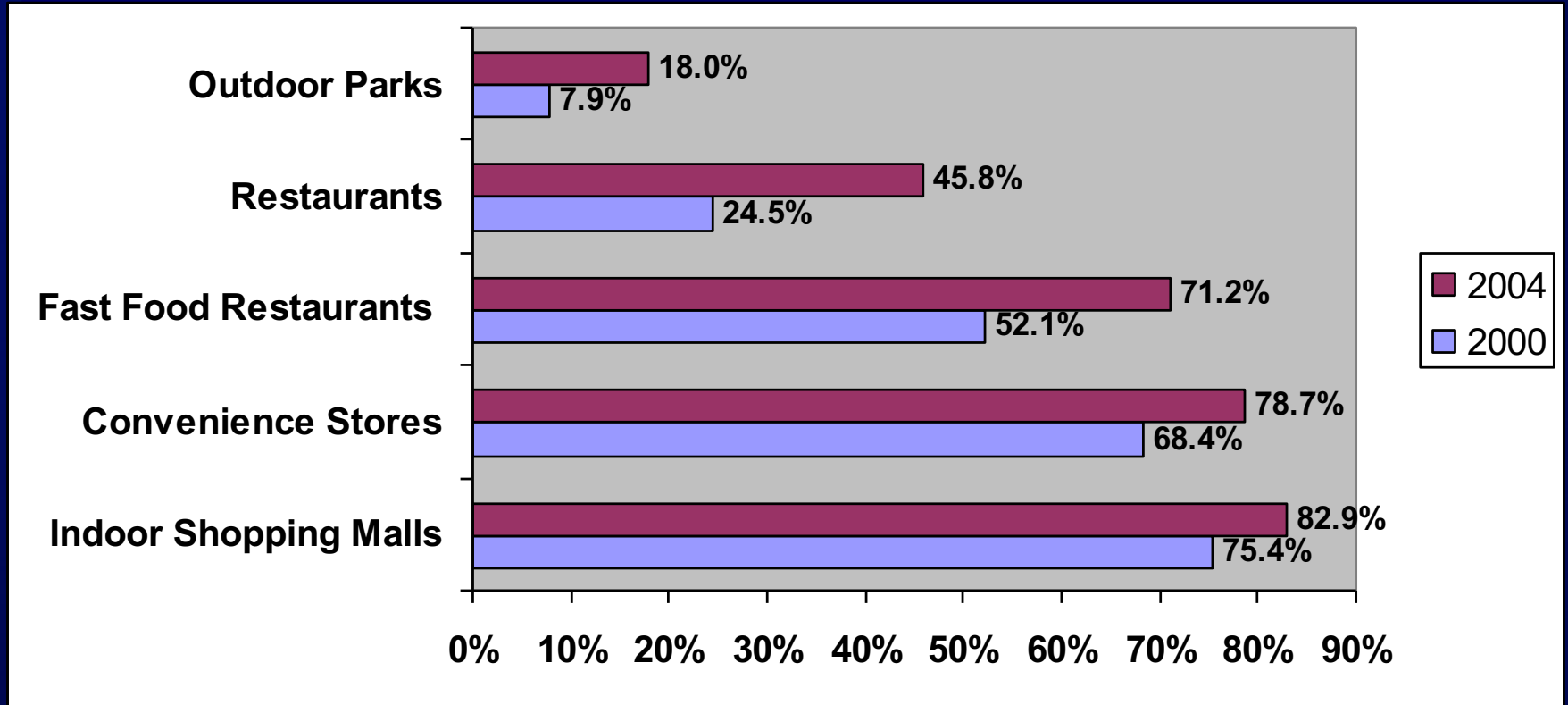
All comparisons, $p < .001$

Support for Smoke-Free Places



All comparisons, $p < .001$

Community Practices



All comparisons, $p < .001$

What Has Not Changed from 2000 to 2004

- Over 75% of adults believe that smoking is unacceptable in front of children
- 90% of adults believe that students should NOT be allowed to smoke on school grounds
- ~75% of adults believe that youth should be penalized for the possession of tobacco

Conclusions

- While the data indicate significant improvement in over 76% of indicators, a substantial proportion of homes and automobiles serve as settings for intense SHS exposure, and many public settings that children frequent are not smoke-free.
- A growing majority of adults in the U.S. favor restrictions on smoking in public settings, suggesting that many communities across the nation have the public support for much broader public smoking restriction policies

Implications

SHS Exposure

- Prevalence of smoking in family vehicles
- Exposure of adults

Attitudes about anti-tobacco initiatives

- In schools
- Bans on tobacco ads
- Smoking in Movies

www.ssrc.msstate.edu/socialclimate

Smoking in Movies

- Project led by Susanne E Tanski & James Sargent
- To determine the level of support for an R-rating for movie smoking among a representative sample of U.S. parents
- A majority of U.S. parents believe that seeing actors smoke influences adolescents to smoke
- Nearly 60% agreed that cigarette smoking should be rated 'R' unless the dangers of smoking are demonstrated.