

Psychosocial Correlates of Youth Smoking in Mississippi

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Background

- Increasing knowledge about the dangers of tobacco and reducing social influence from smokers are important objectives of youth tobacco control programs
- More recently, policy and practices that ban smoking have emerged as promising objectives
- Recent research demonstrates that smoking bans can reduce smoking

Purpose

- To assess the relationship between smoking among Mississippi high school students and:
 1. Knowledge about Cigarettes
 2. Smoking among friends and family
 3. Self-reported smoking bans
- To control for sociodemographic factors

Mississippi Youth Social Climate Survey

- Conducted by the Social Science Research Center at Mississippi State University
- Funded by The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi
- Technical Assistance from the Research Triangle Institute and the CDC's Office of Smoking and Health

Sample Description

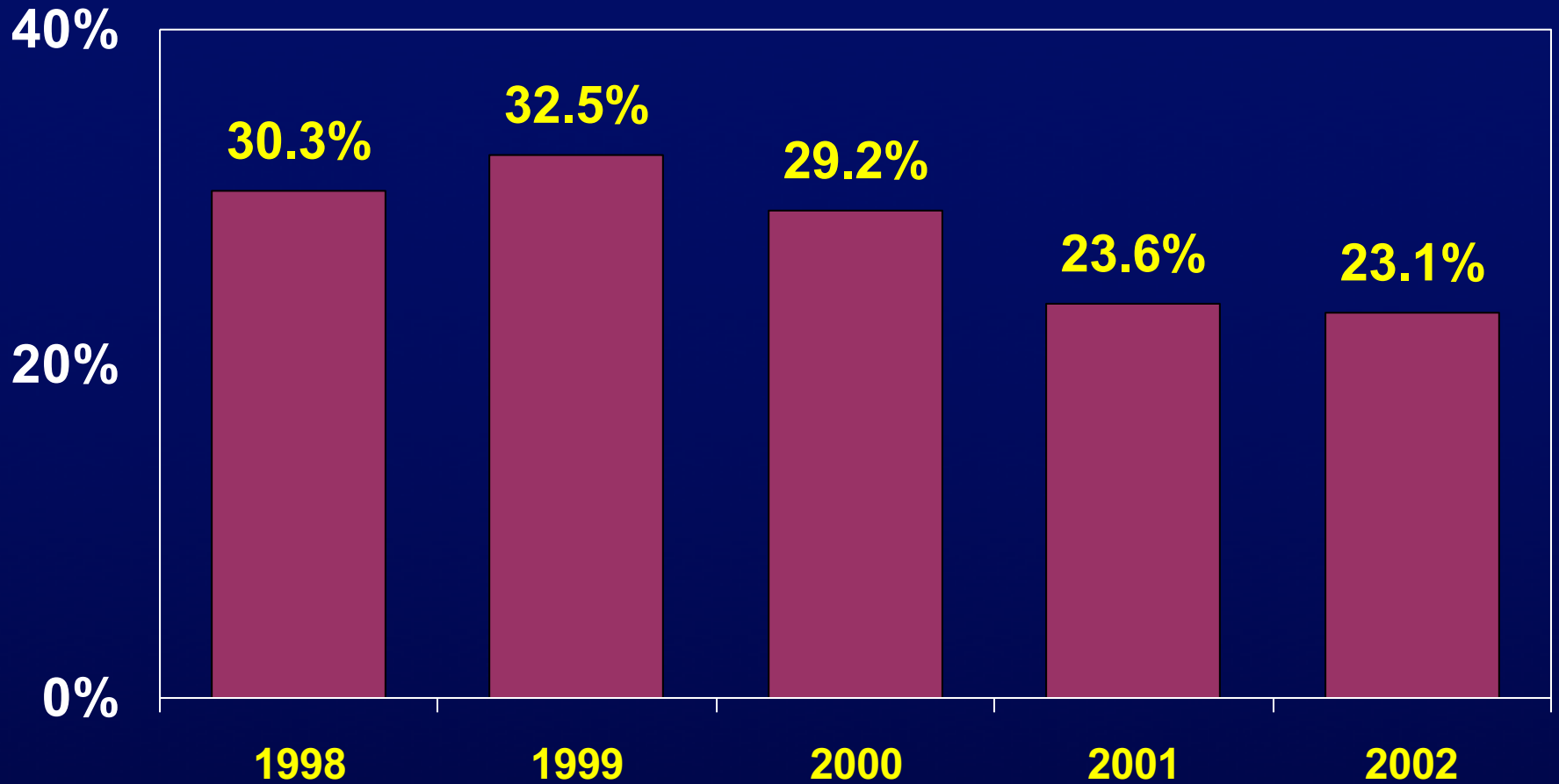
- Two-Stage Cluster Sample of MS Public High School Students, YTS/YRBS Sample Design
- **Overall Response Rate: 62.4%**
- School Response Rate: 86.7%, 39 of the 45 sampled schools participated.
- Student Response Rate: 72.0%, 2707 of the 3762 sampled students completed usable questionnaires

Sample Characteristics

- N = 2,707
- 30.5% 9th Grade, 26.0% 10th, 21.6% 11th, 20.3% 12th
- 52.0% Female, 47.1% Male
- 51.3% Black, 43.5% White

30 Day Smoking Prevalence

MS Public High School Students



Statistical Analyses

- A weighting factor was applied to each student record to adjust for non-response at the school, class, and student levels.
- Logistic regression models were conducted using SUDAAN to measure the relationship of social climate variables and current smoking

Knowledge Variables

- Has either of your parents discussed the dangers of smoking with you?
- Do you think that smoke from other people's cigarettes is harmful to you?
- Can people get addicted to using tobacco just like they can get addicted to cocaine or heroin?
- Do you think that it is safe to smoke for a year or two as long as you quit after that?

Friends And Family

- Does anyone who lives with you now smoke cigarettes?
- During the past 7 days, how many days were you in the same room or rode in a car with someone who was smoking cigarettes?
- How many of your four closest friends smoke cigarettes?

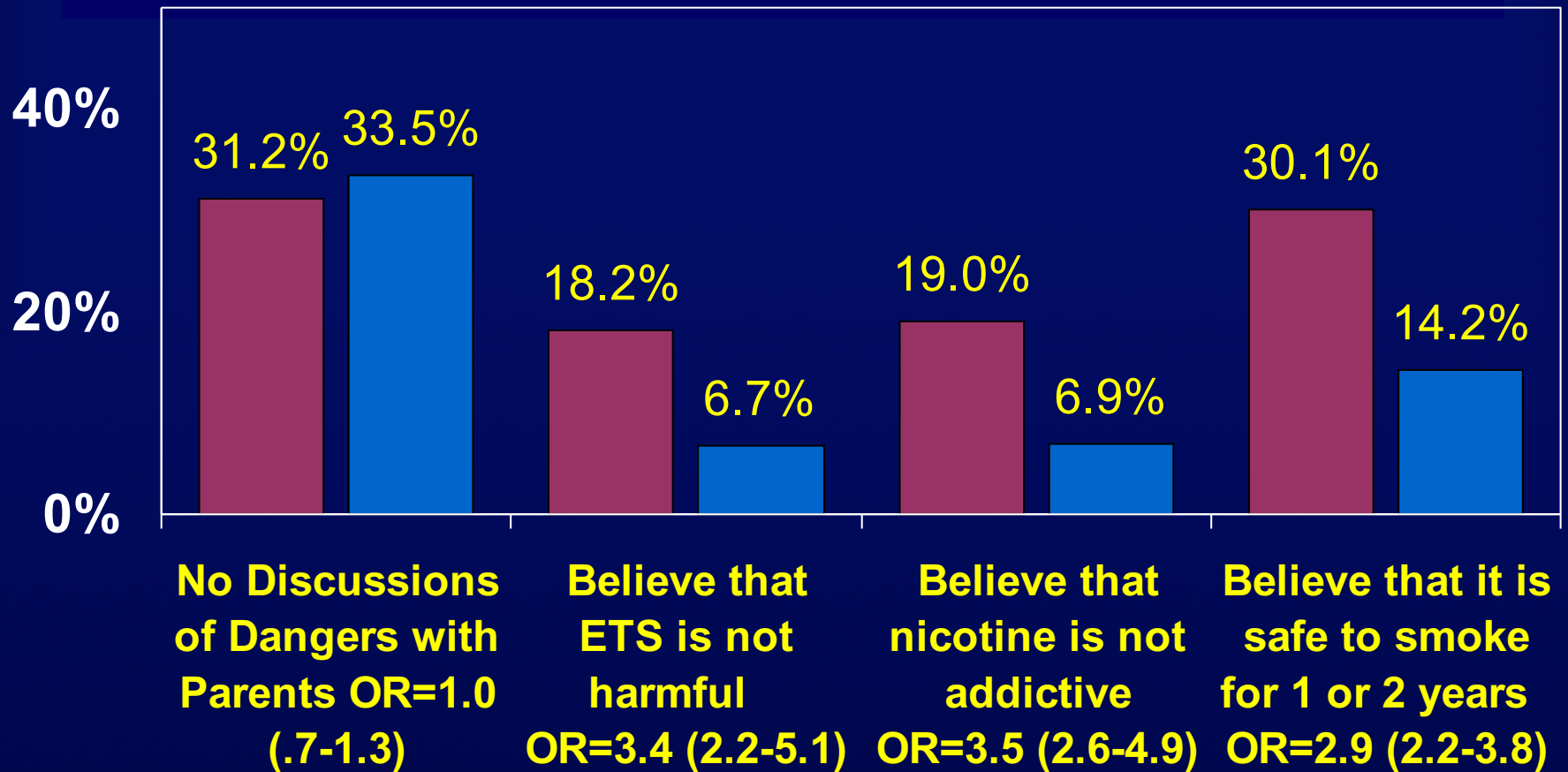
Smoking Restrictions

- Does your household have a ban against smoking?
- In your home is smoking allowed in the presence of children?
- Does your workplace have a ban against smoking?
- Would you say that this smoking policy strictly enforced?

Risk Factors for Current Cigarette Smoking

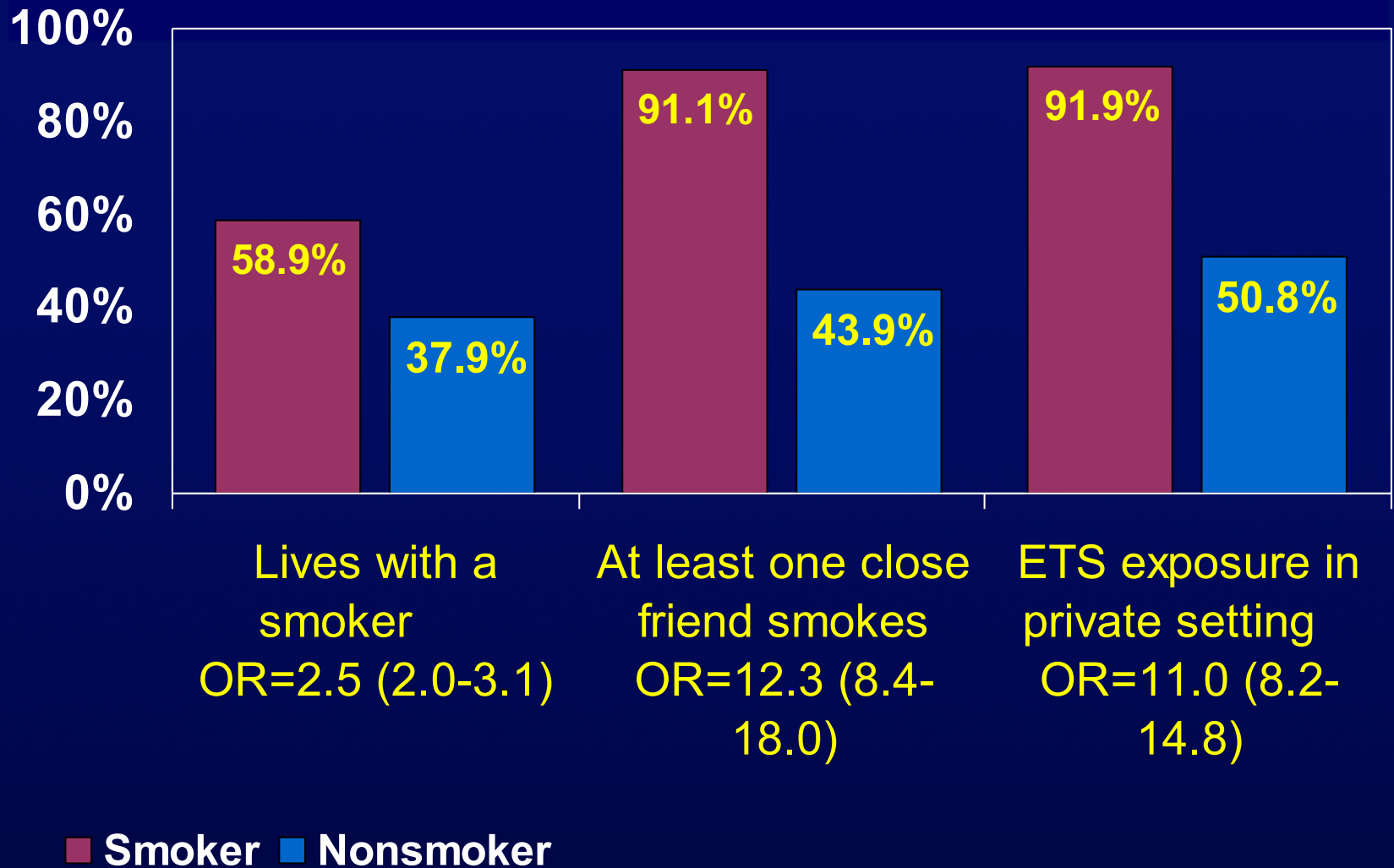
- Logistic regression models
- DV: 30 day smoking status
- Predictor variables coded as risk factors
- Adjusted for sex, grade, & race

Knowledge

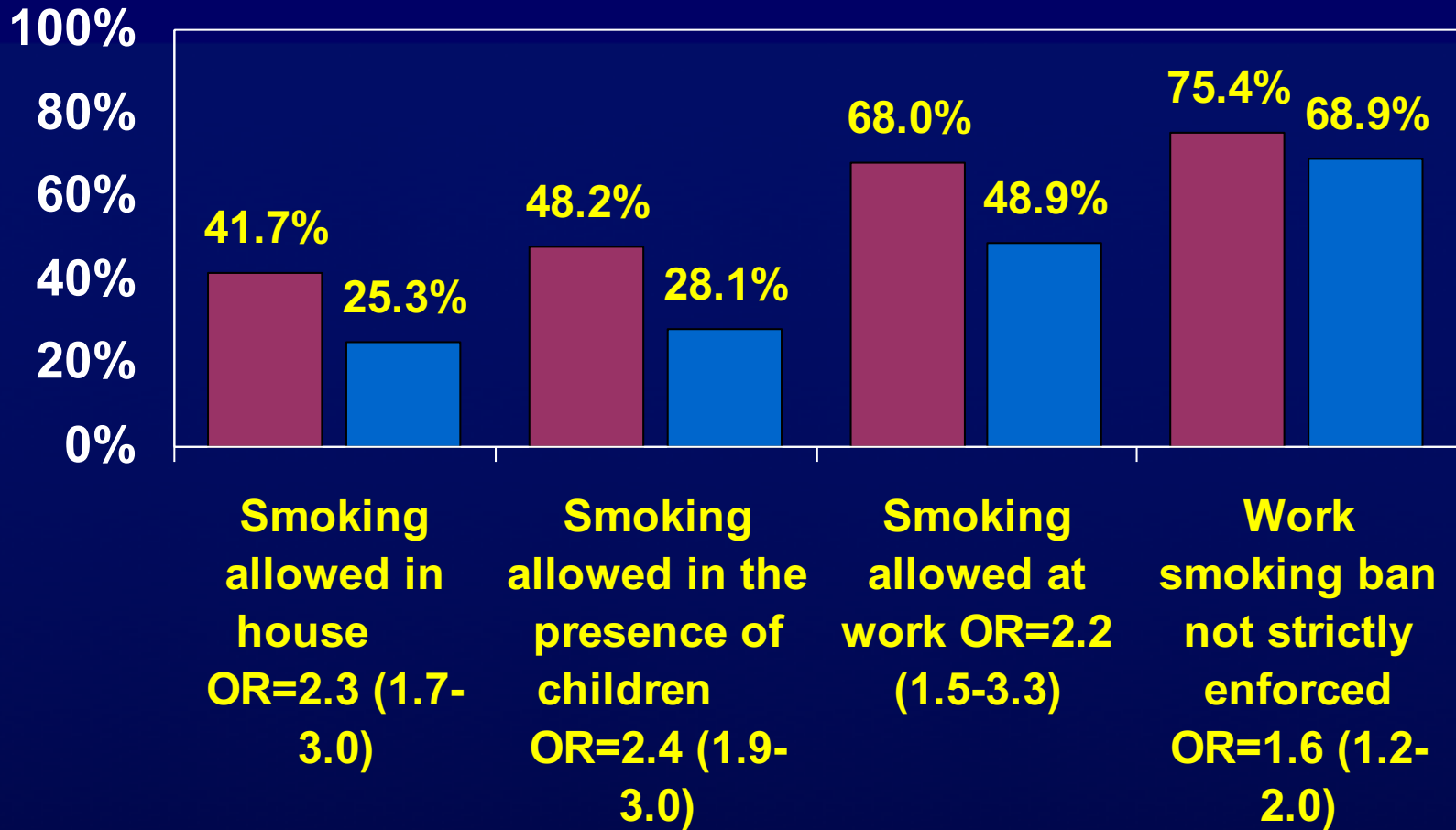


■ Smoker ■ Nonsmoker

Friends and Family



Smoking Restrictions



■ Smoker ■ Nonsmoker

Discussion

- Knowledge of harms associated with current youth smoking
- Friends' and Family's smoking associated with current youth smoking
- Smoking bans associated with current youth smoking

Limitations

- Self-report of smoking bans
- No measures of smoking bans in public places
- Cross-sectional analyses can only detect associations

Future Directions

- Include measure of local smoking bans in public settings
- Monitor social climate conditions and smoking prevalence in Mississippi communities with and without smoking bans

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www.ssrc.msstate.edu/socialclimate