

Who Are The Smokers Who Support Smoking Bans?

Robert C. McMillen & Arthur G. Cosby
 Social Science Research Center, Mississippi State University

Background: In 2003, we presented findings from three consecutive cross-sectional assessments of the social climate of tobacco control. Results from these three surveys demonstrated significant increases in the percent of smokers who ban smoking in their homes and in support for smoking bans in public places among smokers.

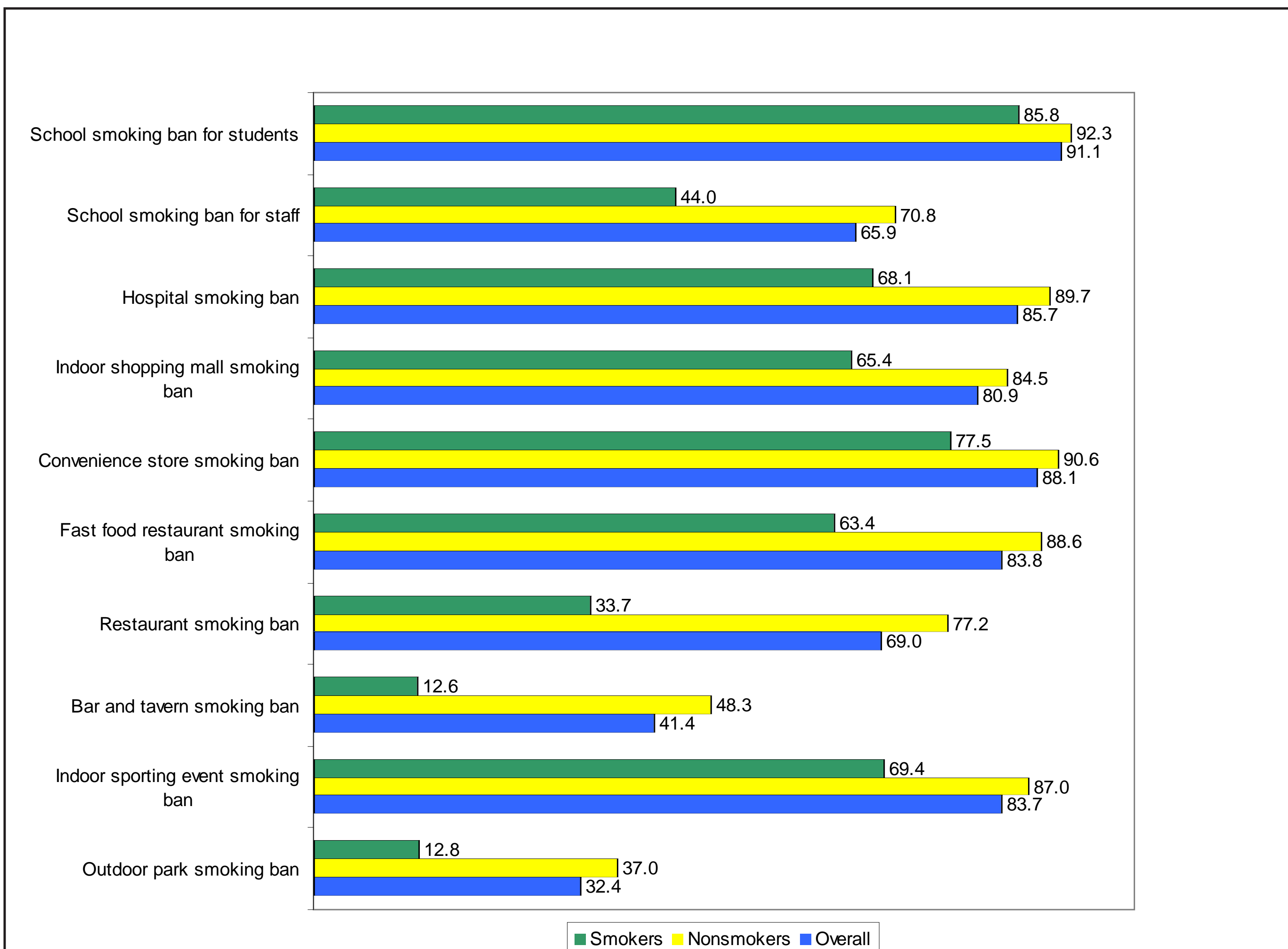
Objective: To determine who are the smokers that ban smoking in their homes and who support smoking bans in public places.

Methods: Four consecutive cross-sectional household telephone surveys representing national probability samples of adults from all 50 states were conducted in the summers of 2000 to 2003.

Results: Responses from 2162 smokers demonstrated that smokers who lived in homes with smoking bans or worked in places with smoking bans were more likely to support smoking bans in other places. Smokers who had made a quit attempt in the past year or who only smoked on some days were also more supportive of smoking bans. Finally, support for smoking bans tended to be more prevalent among females than males, Euro-Americans than African-Americans, smokers who live in the western region than those in other regions of the US, younger smokers than older smokers, and smokers with higher levels of education ($p < .05$ for all comparisons).

Significance: These data, we believe, have a number of implications for tobacco control interventions. Ultimately, most tobacco control policies are aimed at the smoker. A better understanding of which smokers are receptive to these policies can improve efforts to reduce the prevalence of cigarette smoking and ETS exposure.

Percent of Smokers and Nonsmokers Who Support Smoking Bans

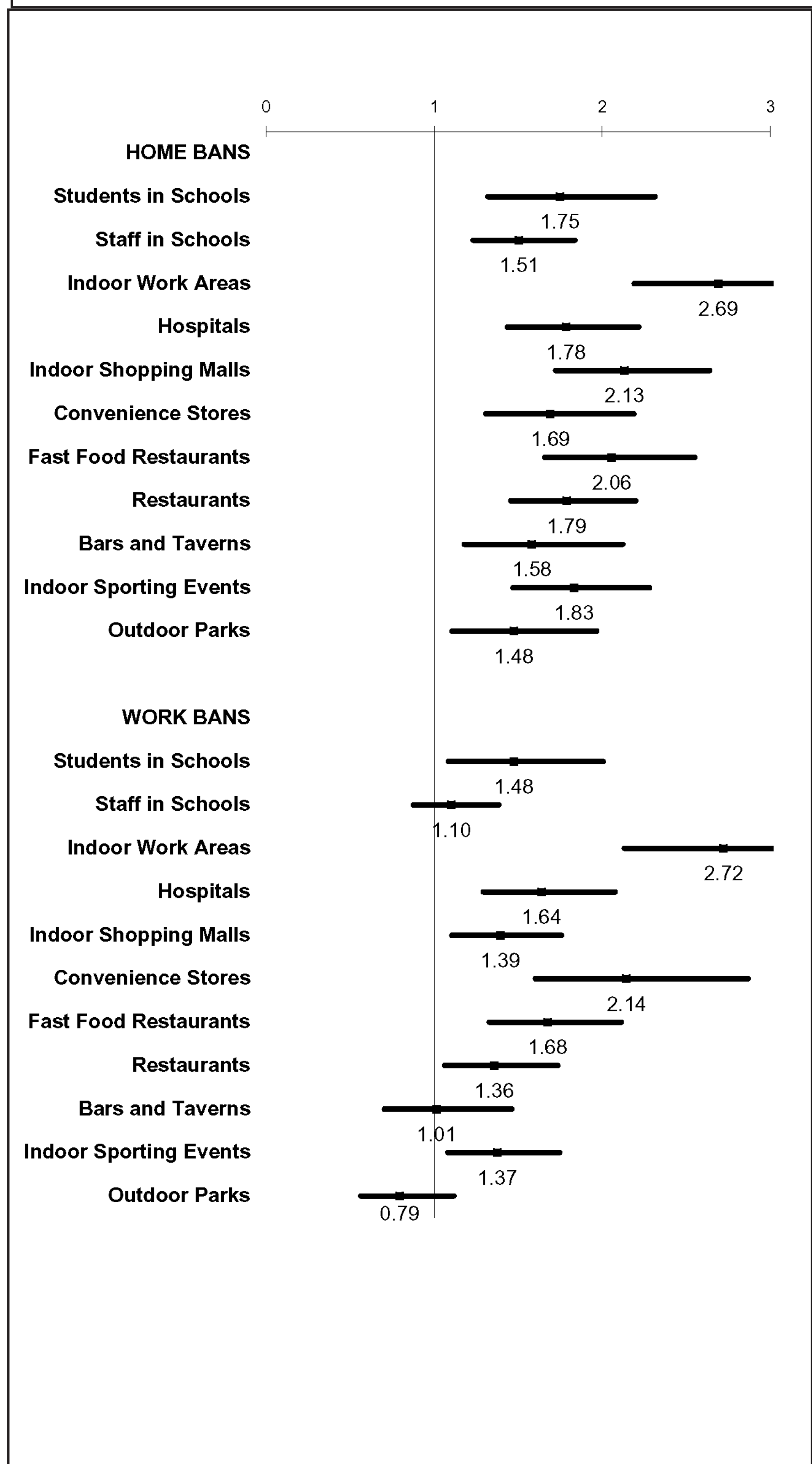


Odds of supporting smoking bans

Smokers who live in homes with smoking bans, relative to those who do not

Odds of supporting smoking bans

Smokers who work in places with smoking bans, relative to those who do not

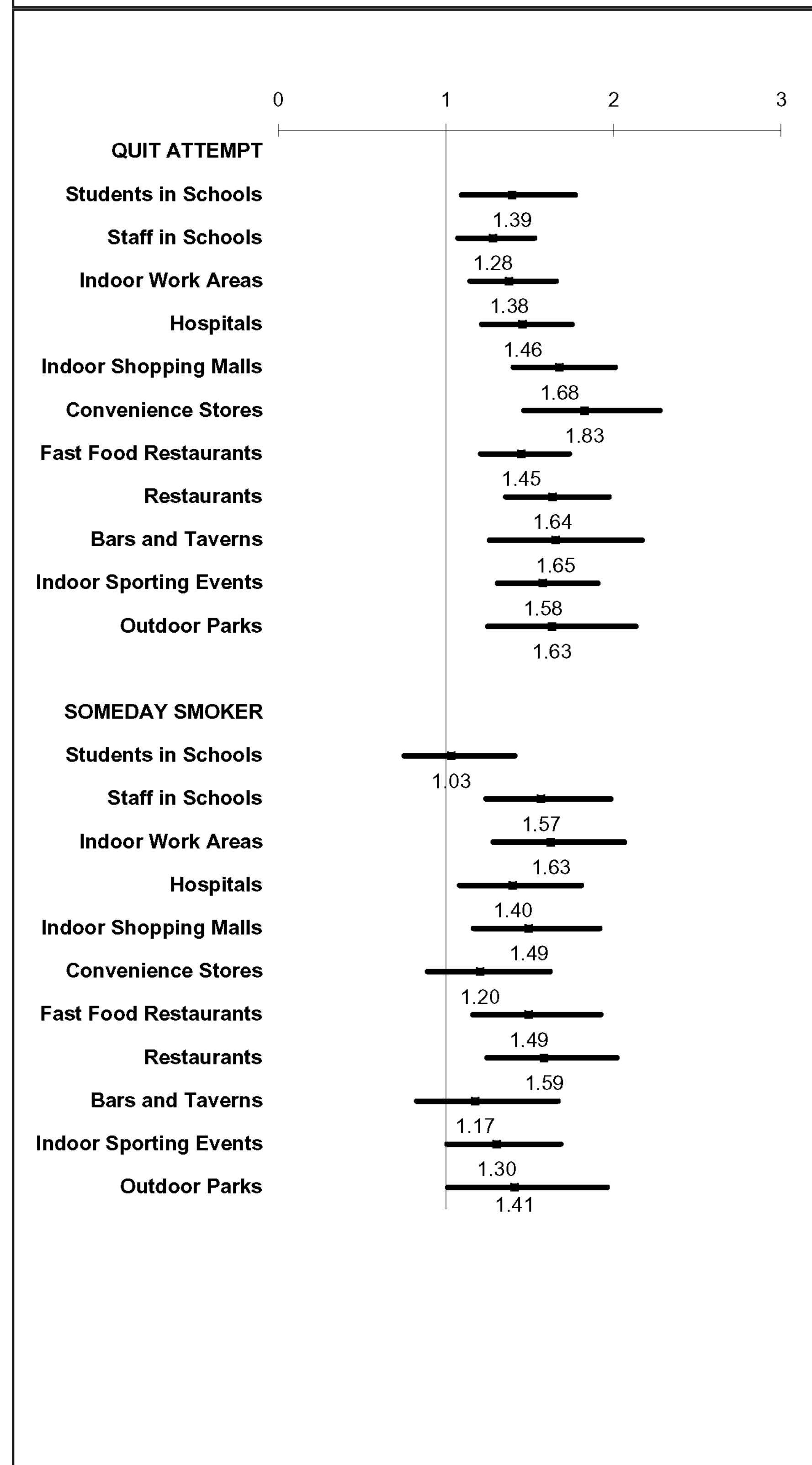


Odds of supporting smoking bans

Smokers who have tried to quit, relative to those who have not

Odds of supporting smoking bans

Someday smokers, relative to everyday smokers



RESULTS

- Although public support for smoking bans is greater among nonsmokers, a substantial percentage of smokers also support smoking bans
- Smokers who have made a quit attempt in the past year are more likely to support smoking bans than those who have not made a quit attempt
- Some day smokers are more likely to support smoking bans than those who smoke everyday
- Smokers who live in smokefree homes are more likely to support smoking bans than those who do not
- Smokers who work in place that ban indoor smoking are more likely to support smoking bans than those who do not
- Support for smoking bans tended to vary across sociodemographic categories

CONCLUSIONS

These data, we believe, have a number of implications for tobacco control interventions. Ultimately, most tobacco control policies are aimed at the smoker. A better understanding of which smokers are receptive to these policies can improve efforts to reduce the prevalence of cigarette smoking and ETS exposure.

The National Social Climate Survey of Tobacco Control was supported by funds from the Rural Health, Safety and Security Institute of the Social Science Research Center at Mississippi State University through a grant from the Office of Rural Health Policy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station; and the Center for Child Health Research of the American Academy of Pediatrics.