

Smoking in New Zealand Bars

A Pre and Post December 10th Legislation Survey

Executive Summary

The results of this survey are very positive. They indicate that 97 percent of bars in New Zealand are complying with the legislation.

How the Survey was Designed and Administered

Purpose

The purpose of this survey was to measure the amount of smoking in bars before and after the implementation of the Smokefree Environments Act on 10 December 2004.

Methods

The survey was conducted by the National Research Bureau and funded by Action on Smoking and Health (ASH).

Round 1 of this survey was conducted in July 2004 and round 2 was conducted in April 2005. 193 bars were surveyed from 20 different centers (including cities and towns) across New Zealand.

All bars were surveyed between 6:00pm and 8:00pm on Friday evenings. The interviewer entered the bar and counted the number of people within the premises and then counted the number of people within the premises with a lit cigarette or cigar. People who were in outside sections of the bar were not counted.

Results

183 of the 193 bars in Round 1 (July 2004) had smokers present (95%).

5 of the 193 bars in Round 2 (April 2005) had smokers present (3%). 97 percent of the bars surveyed are complying with the legislation.

In Round 1, 24 percent of the total patrons were smoking within premises. In Round 2, only 0.23 percent of the total patrons were smoking within premises.

One bar was the source for the majority of the violations. There were 18 people within the premises and 6 of them were smoking.

Bars that had high rates of smoking prior to the law (greater than 50%) were just as likely to be compliant as bars that had low rates of smoking prior to the legislation (less than 20%).

Conclusions

This survey has found that compliance with the legislation is extremely high with 97 percent of the bars having no smoking within their premises. Whilst 95 percent of bars allowed smoking prior to the Act only 3 percent had smokers within the premises following the implementation of the Act.

This primarily self-enforcing law is achieving extremely high compliance only four months following implementation of the Act.

This survey demonstrates that the vast majority of bar owners are complying with the Act and that it is being enforced without difficulty or huge expense.

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