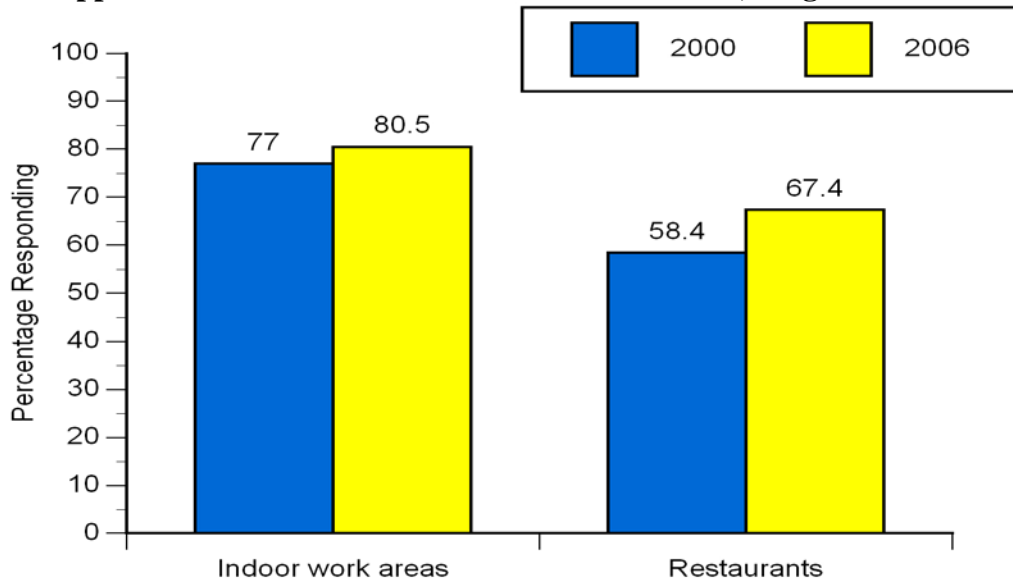


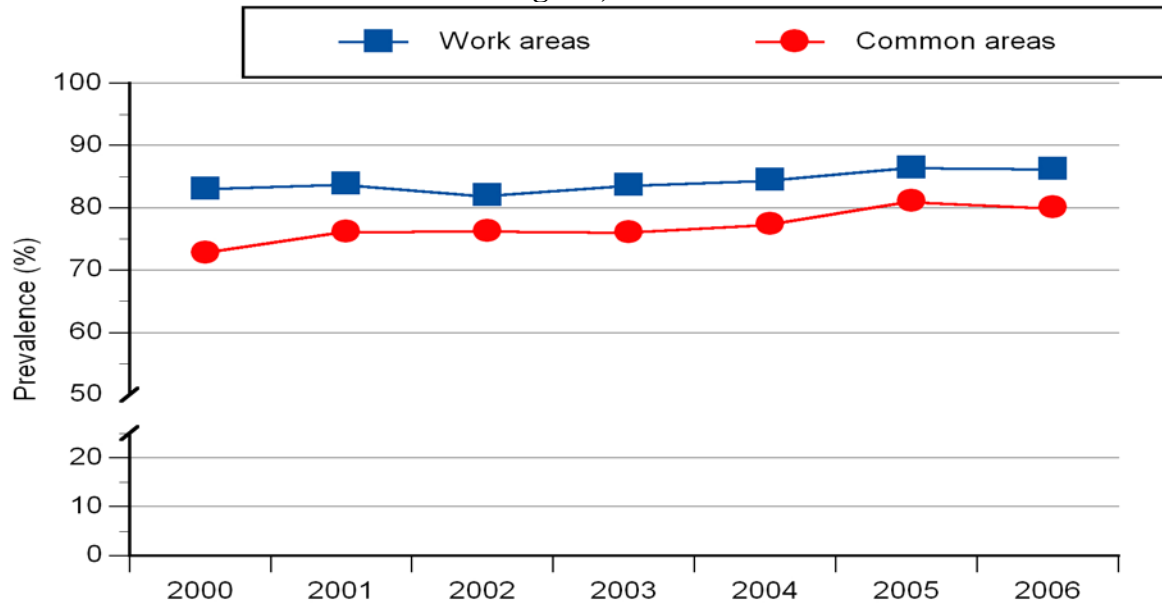
- According to 2006 state health behavior survey findings, 9-in-10 (86.1%) working adults were protected by smoking bans in work areas, and 79.9 percent reported that smoking was not allowed in public areas (e.g., restrooms, lobbies, break rooms) at work. Eighty percent (80.4%) of Virginians work in sites that have a complete ban on smoking in both work areas and common areas.¹
- In the same survey, 80.5 percent of Virginians said that smoking should not be allowed at all in indoor work areas. Two-thirds (67.4%) said that smoking should not be allowed at all in restaurants. This is a significant increase in the percentage of adults supporting a smoking ban in restaurants from 2000 (58.4%) (Figure 1).
- The rates of employer bans on smoking in the work place have been increasing over the last seven years (Figure 2). In 2000, 83 percent of Virginians worked at sites where smoking was not allowed in any work area, and 73 percent were employed in places where there were policies against smoking in common areas.

Figure 1. Support for Smoke-Free Policies in the Work Place, Virginia: 2000 versus 2006



Source: Virginia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Percentages are population-weighted. Refers to respondents who said that “smoking should not [be] allowed at all” in indoor work areas or at restaurants.

Figure 2. Employees Protected by Smoke-Free Policies in Indoor Work Places, Virginia, 2000 -2006



Who Works in Places Where Smoking is Allowed

Looking at combined survey data across three years (2004 – 2006)², the findings indicate that the following groups are more likely to work at sites where smoking is allowed in work areas (or there is no policy):

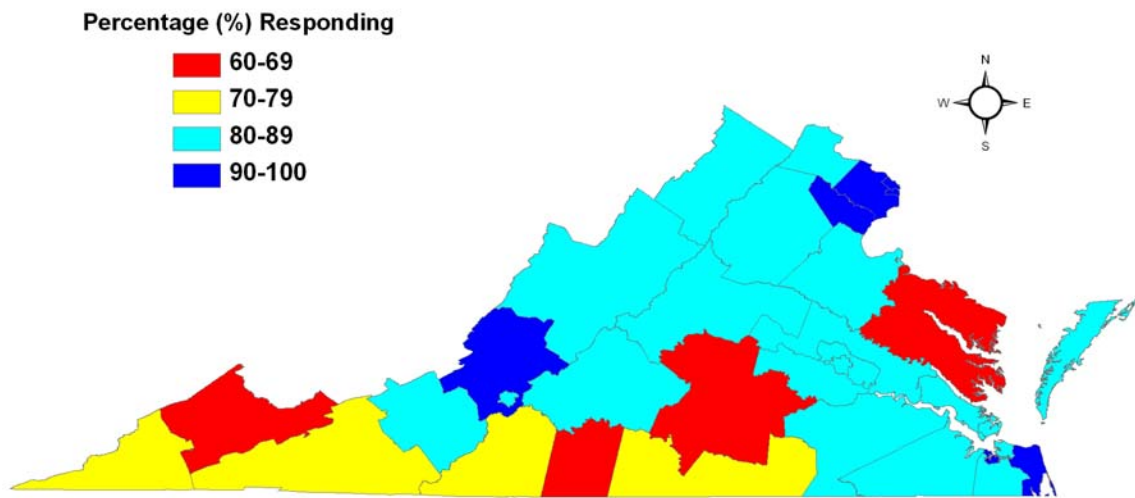
- Men
- Young adults 18-24 years
- Adults with fewer years of education
- Adults who make less income, have no health insurance
- Residents of rural and small town communities

Hispanics have slightly higher rates of working in places where smoking is allowed.

Click [here](#) for workplace smoke-free policy rates (with 95% confidence intervals) by demographic group.

Certain areas—for example, Southwest Virginia, Northern Neck-- have much lower rates of employed adults who work in places where smoking is banned in work areas (Figure 3).² Rates range from 66.7 percent in Three Rivers Health District to 93.8 percent in Alexandria Health District.

Figure 3. Employed in Workplaces with Smoke-Free Policies for Work Areas, By Health District, Virginia, 2004-2006



¹ Source: Virginia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Percentages are population-weighted. The survey respondent was asked which best described their work's official smoking policy: not allowed in any work (common) areas, allowed in some areas, allowed in all work areas, or have no policy. Having a smoke-free policy is defined as not allowing smoking in any (work or common) area.

² Source: Virginia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Data for 2004, 2005, and 2006 are combined for more accurate rate estimates. 95% confidence intervals are reported.