

# Californians Prefer Smokefree Outdoor Dining

A survey of 1,793 California adults, conducted between April and June of 2024, found that 73% of respondents would not eat a meal in an outdoor dining area where people were smoking.

## Background



Smoking leaves behind toxic chemical residue that contains **over 25 chemicals** listed under California's Prop 65 that are known to be hazardous to human health, such as nicotine and other carcinogens.



Patrons of outdoor restaurant patios can **pick up and absorb tobacco smoke residue on their hands** by touching tables and surfaces, **even after active smoking has stopped.**



Many counties and cities in California **do not have** comprehensive restrictions on smoking and vaping in outdoor dining patios.

## Methods



In 2024, The Policy Research Center for Tobacco and the Environment conducted an **online survey of 1,793 California adults** asking them a series of questions about their outdoor dining preferences including:

**"Would you eat a meal in an outdoor dining area if people in that area were smoking?"**

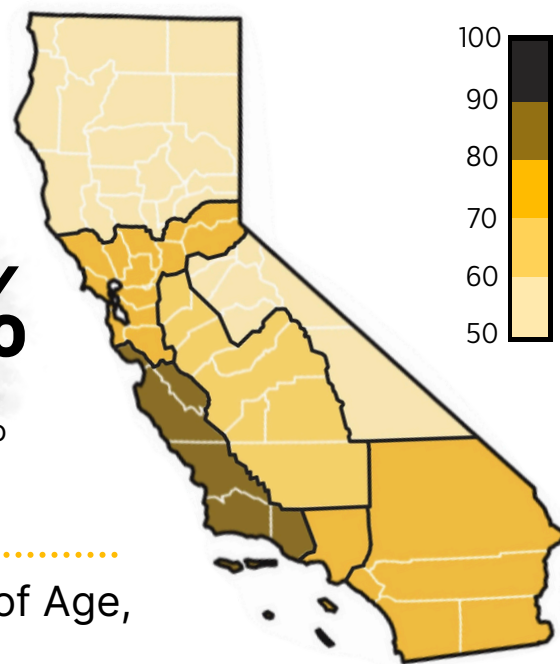
## Results



**Nearly 3 in 4 say no.**

**73% of Californians surveyed would not eat in an outdoor dining area where people were smoking.**

Percent of Californians Who **Say No** by Region



**88%**  
of people who do  
NOT use tobacco  
**say no**



**42%**  
of people who  
DO use tobacco  
**say no**

Californians **Say No** Regardless of Age, Ethnicity, or Employment Status.



**74%** Under 40  
**72%** Aged 40+



**72%** Employed  
**72%** Not Employed



**72%** Hispanic  
**72%** Non-Hispanic

## Conclusion

Californians overwhelmingly **agree** they would not eat a meal in an outdoor dining patio if people in that area were smoking. Smokefree outdoor dining is popular among Californians, and can protect patrons from second- and thirdhand smoke.

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