

# The Smokefree Great Britain Survey 2021<sup>1</sup>

## Public Opinion in England

In 2019, [13.9% of people in England](#) continued to smoke. Smoking [killed 74,600 people](#) in England in 2019. It remains the leading cause of preventable illness and premature death in the country.

### In 2021, England supported Government action to tackle tobacco

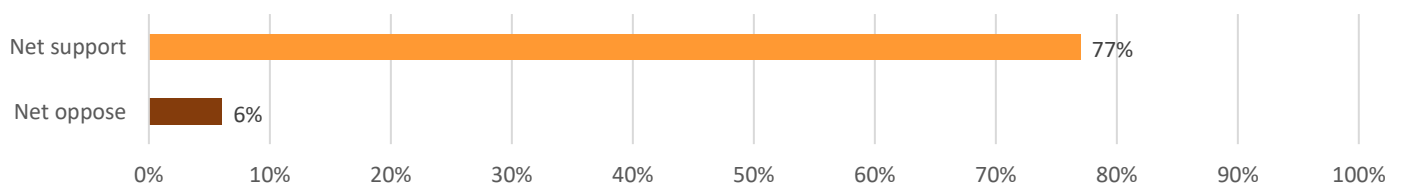
- Four in every five (80%) adults in England support activities to limit smoking or think the government could do more.
- 5% of adults in England think the Government is doing too much (3%) or far too much (2%).
- In England, the proportion of respondents who support the Government or think they could do more to limit smoking has grown substantially from [29% in 2009](#) to 45% in 2021.
- 76% of people in England support the Government's ambition to reduce smoking prevalence to less than 5% (fewer than 1 in 20 people) by 2030 with just 7% opposing.

### What further action should be taken to tackle tobacco?

#### A levy on tobacco manufacturers

Adults in England strongly support tobacco manufacturers being required to pay a levy to Government for measures to help smokers quit and prevent young people from taking up smoking. 77% of adults in England support this, with only 6% opposing it.

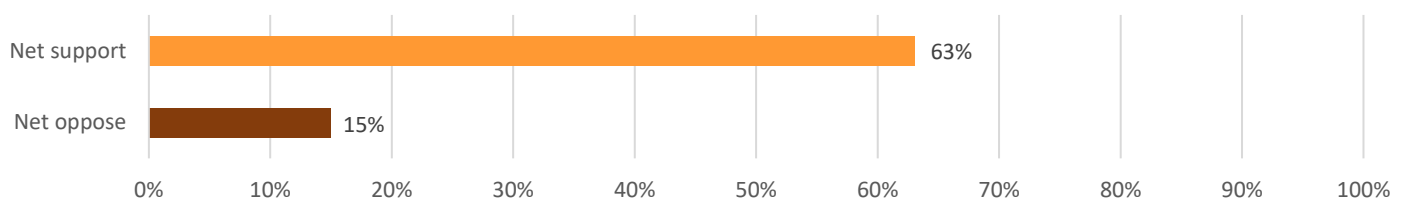
England's support for a tobacco levy paid by tobacco manufacturers to Government



#### Increasing the age of sale from 18 to 21

The majority of adults in England support increasing the age of sale for tobacco from 18 to 21, with few opposing it. There is [good evidence](#) that raising the age of sale of tobacco to 21 will have a substantial positive impact on public health and save lives.

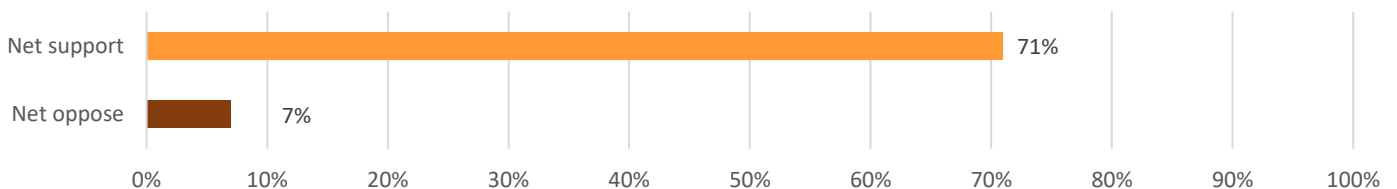
England's support for increasing the age of sale for tobacco to 21



#### Pack inserts

Almost three quarters (71%) of adults in England support requiring cigarette packs to include inserts with Government mandated information about quitting, compared to 7% who oppose it. [Research from Canada](#), where pack inserts are used, shows they have been effective in promoting quitting, whilst [UK research](#) shows use of such inserts is supported by smokers diverse in age, gender, and social grade.

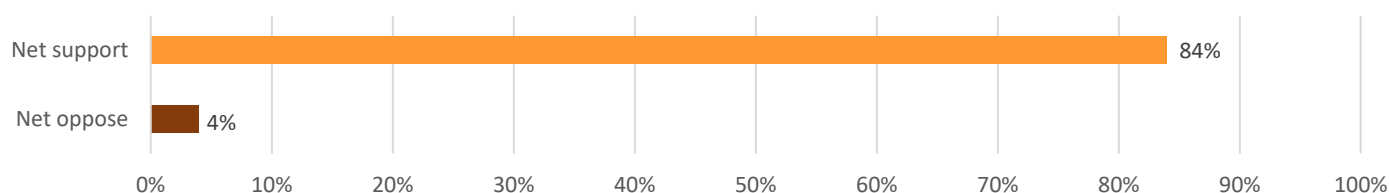
England's support for cigarette packs to include inserts with Government info about quitting



### Tobacco retail licensing

84% of adults in England support the introduction of a licence to sell tobacco which can be removed if retailers are caught more than once selling to underage smokers, with only 4% opposing.

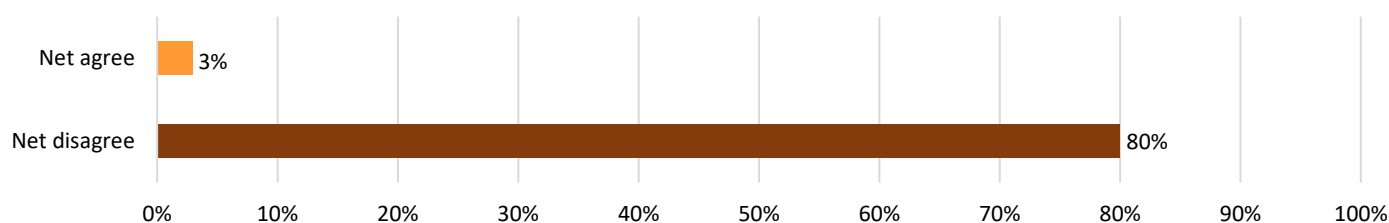
England's support for tobacco retail licensing in England



### In 2019, public belief in tobacco companies offers of help was extremely low in England<sup>2</sup>

Tobacco manufacturers increasingly claim they want to help people stop smoking and try to influence public health policy, for example [offering funding for the relaxing of advertising regulations on new products](#). The public understands the tobacco industry are not to be trusted: only 3% of adults in England agree with the statement: 'I believe tobacco companies when they say they want to help people quit smoking'.

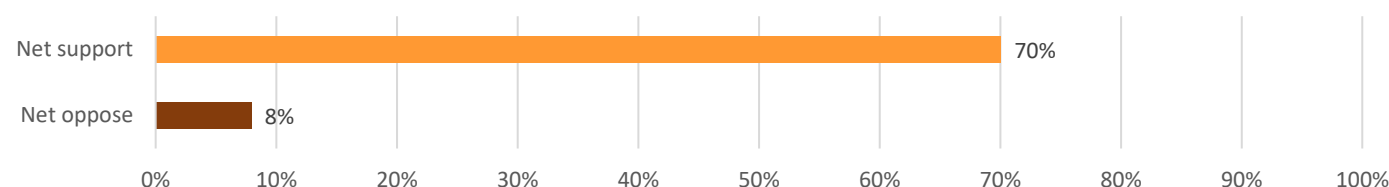
England: 'I believe tobacco companies when they say they want to help people quit smoking'



### Dissuasive cigarettes

70% of adults in England support the introduction of health warnings printed on cigarette sticks, with only 8% opposing. In a [2020 study](#) of 600 people, 84-91% said they would not try dissuasive cigarettes.

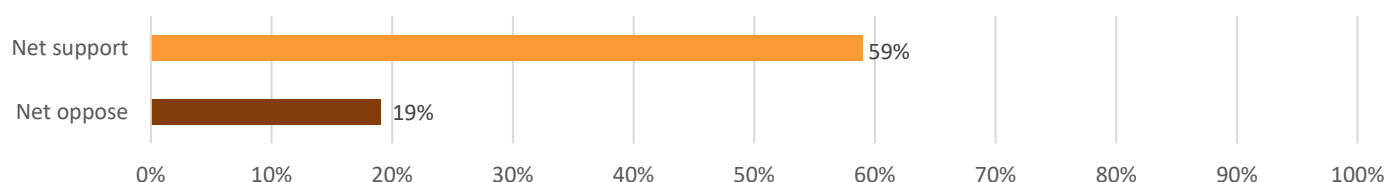
England's support for dissuasive cigarette



### Incentive schemes for pregnant women

[A 2014 study](#) of 600 women in Glasgow found that providing financial incentives improves a pregnant woman's chances of quitting smoking. After being told about the trial, around three fifths (59%) of adults in England support offering pregnant women financial incentives alongside stop smoking treatment to help quit smoking, compared to 19% who disagree.

England's support for financial incentive schemes for pregnant women



1 All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc Smokefree Great Britain Survey 2021. The total sample size was 10211 adults in England. Fieldwork was undertaken between: 18th February 2021 to 18th March 2021. The survey is carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all adults in England(aged 18+).

2 YouGov Plc Smokefree Great Britain Survey 2019. The total sample sizes was 10338 adults in England. Fieldwork was undertaken between: 12th February 2019 to 10th March 2019. The survey is carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all adults in England(aged 18+).