



Second-hand smoke exposure and smoking  
prevalence by housing tenure

YouGov 2018

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To determine public opinion in Wales relating to tobacco control ASH Wales Cymru conducts an annual opinion poll in conjunction with YouGov. The 2018 survey was undertaken between February to March 2018. The survey questions were asked of a representative sample of 1,079 adults (aged 18+) in Wales.

### **Key points:**

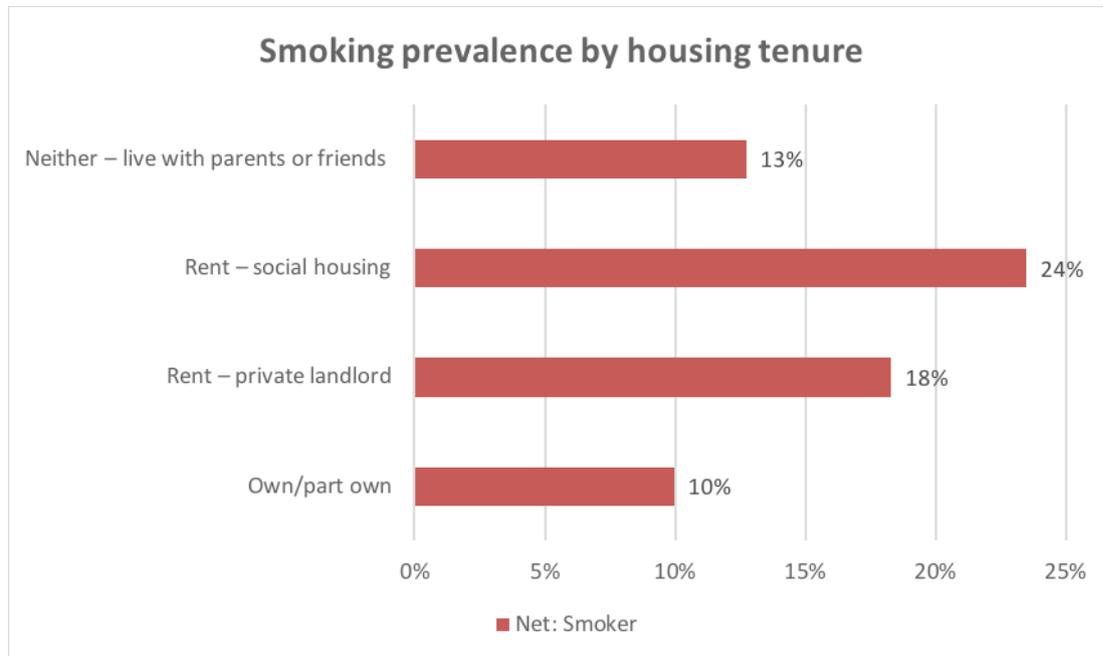
- Smoking prevalence among respondents that reside in social housing (24%) is around double the average figure across all respondents (13%)
- Smoking prevalence among respondents that rent from a private landlord (18%) is almost double those that own/part own their own property (10%)
- Social housing residents are twice as likely as residents in other housing tenures to be exposed to second-hand smoke (SHS) in their own home from someone who lives there, by a neighbour and in the communal areas of the building.
- SHS exposure in the home mostly occurs from someone elsewhere e.g. a neighbour, where nearly half of social housing residents (45%) are exposed to SHS compared to 21% across all housing tenures
- Private renters are nearly 4 times as likely to have a smoke-free arrangement in their tenancy agreement (46%) relative to social housing tenants (12%)
- 87% of all Welsh adults said they would prefer to live with a non-smoker
- Exposure to SHS in the home is slightly higher among households with children compared to households without any children. Over a quarter (27%) of respondents in homes with children aged 0-5 are exposed to SHS from someone living elsewhere e.g. a neighbour, compared to 20% of those with no children in the household.

### **Smoking prevalence**

When considering smoking prevalence by housing tenure, figure 1 shows prevalence is highest for those that reside in social housing (24%), second highest for those that rent from a private landlord (18%) and is lowest for those that own/part-own their own home (10%). The average across all housing tenures is 13%.

Very similar results are found in the GB YouGov survey.

**Figure 1**



Unweighted base: All Welsh adults n=1079; own/part-own n=792; live with parents or friends, n=73; rent-private n=129; rent-housing association n=73

## Second-hand smoke

Exposure to SHS in the home is most prevalent in social housing accommodation and twice as high as the average across all other housing tenures from someone who lives there, by a neighbour and in the communal areas of the building (Figure 2).

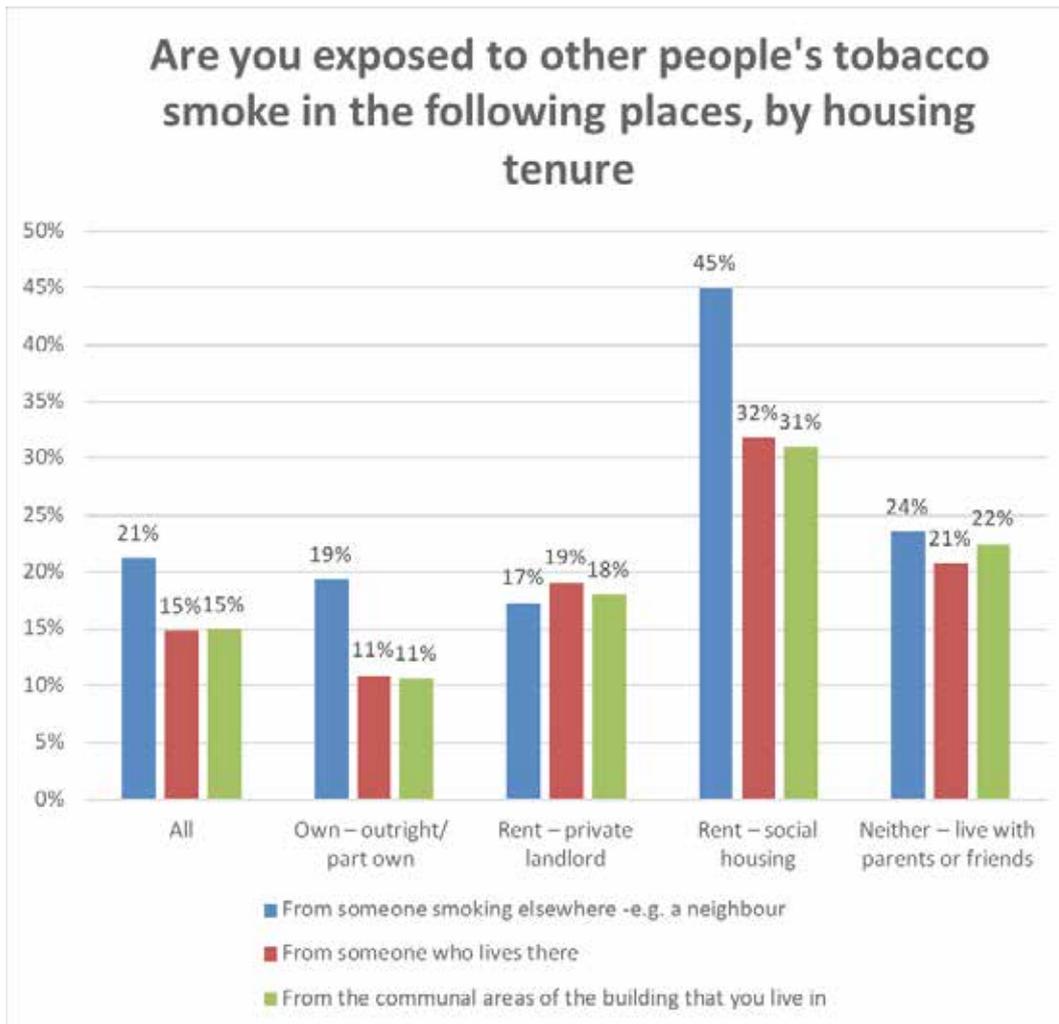
Social housing residents are twice as likely to be exposed to SHS in their own home from someone else e.g. a neighbour (45% vs 21%), from someone who lives there (32% vs 15%) and in the communal areas of the building (31% vs 15%) compared to the average across all other housing tenures.

Across all adults in Wales exposure to SHS in the home is found to most commonly occur from someone smoking elsewhere, e.g. a neighbour (21%) compared to from someone who lives there (15%) and the communal areas of the building (15%). 87% of all Welsh adults said

they would prefer to live with a non-smoker.

Given that the number of respondents surveyed in social housing accommodation is low (see figure 1), these numbers should be interpreted with caution. Yet the GB 2018 YouGov survey finds very similar results to the results for Wales<sup>1</sup>.

**Figure 2**



Unweighted base, excluding 'non-applicable' respondents : All Welsh adults, communal areas of the building n= 697, from someone smoking elsewhere n=973, from someone who lives there n=906; Own/ part own, communal areas of the building n= 493, from someone smoking elsewhere n=716, from someone who lives there n=658; Rent-private, communal areas of the building n= 91, from someone smoking elsewhere n=118, from someone who lives there n=113; Rent-housing association, communal areas of the building n= 53, from someone smoking elsewhere n=67, from someone who lives there n=64; Neither, communal areas of the building n= 54, from someone smoking elsewhere n=65, from someone who lives there n=64

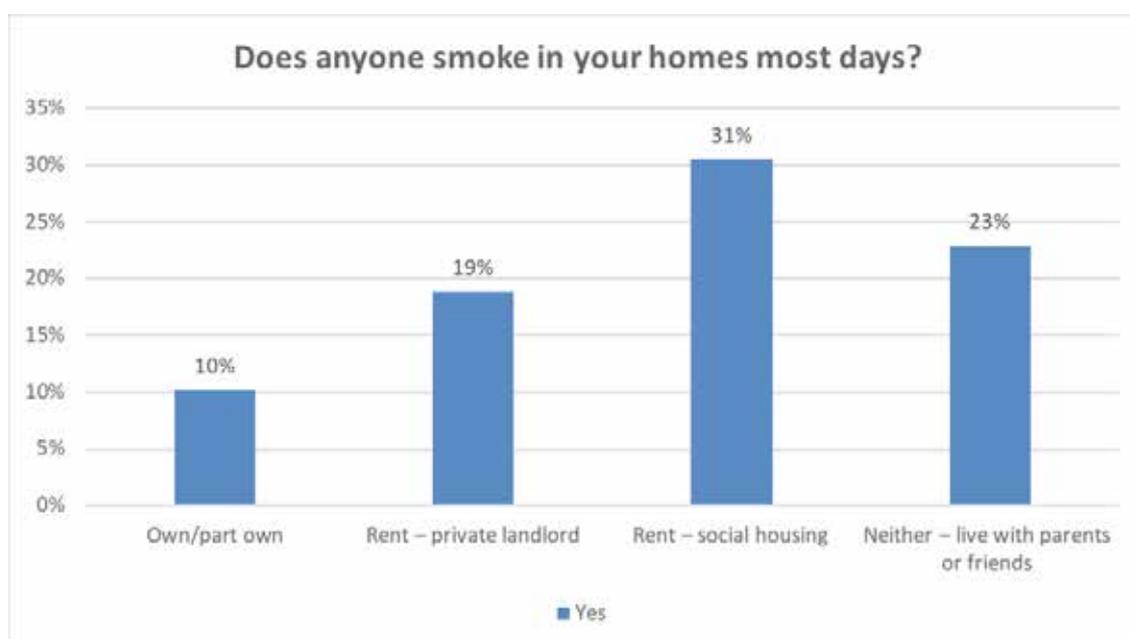
<sup>1</sup> The GB survey results show that exposure to SHS at home most commonly occurs from someone living elsewhere – e.g. a neighbour and is far more likely to occur in social housing accommodation relative to the average across all other housing tenures. The difference in smoking prevalence in social housing accommodation is also nearly double the average across all housing tenures.

## Smoking in the home

14% of all Welsh adults report someone in their home smokes most days. This is lowest for those that own/part-own their own home, and highest (double the average) for social housing tenants where nearly a third (31%) responded yes, and second highest for those that live with parents or friends (Figure 3).

A similar pattern is found in the GB survey<sup>2</sup>.

Figure 3



Unweighted base: All Welsh adults, n=1079; own/ part-own, n=792; rent - private, n=129; rent - social housing/ local authority, n=77; neither, n=73

## Smoke-free tenancy agreement

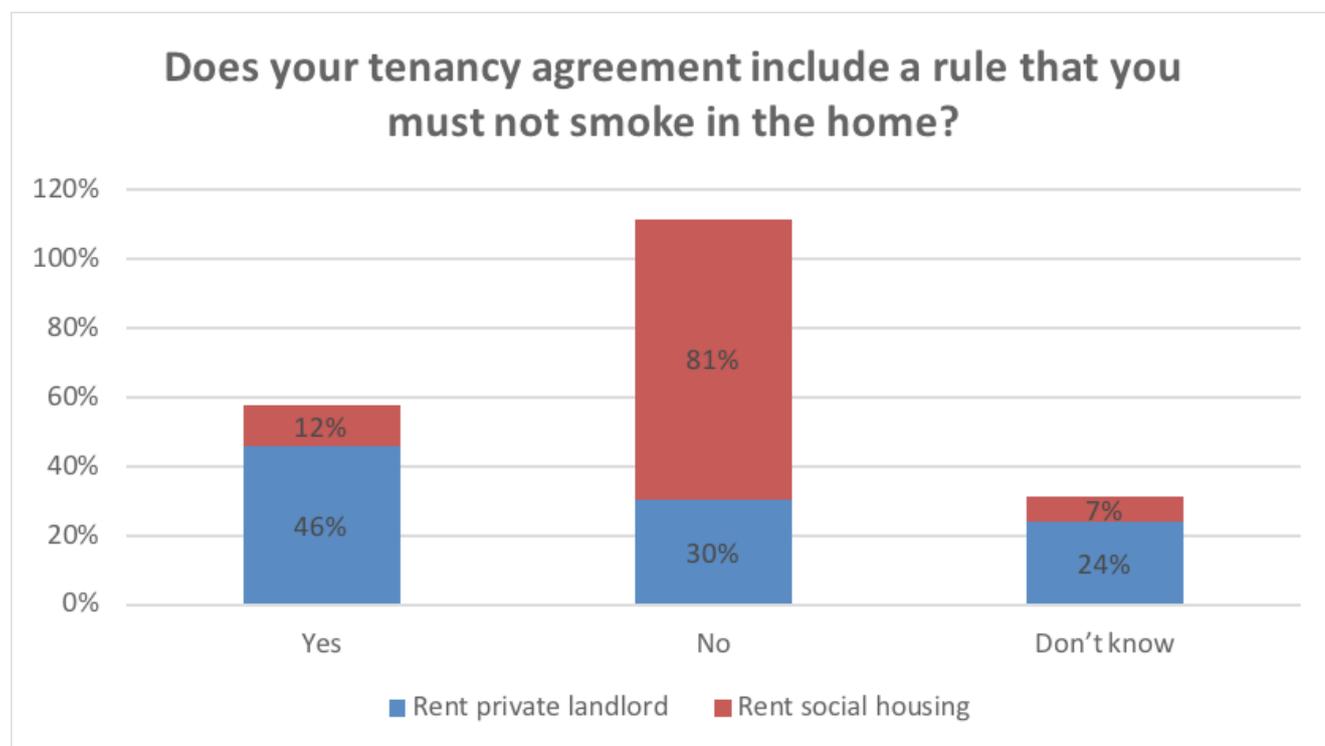
When respondents were asked if their tenancy agreement includes a rule that you must not smoke in your home the proportion that answered yes was close to four times higher for private renters (46%) relative to social housing residents (12%).

The difference in smoke-free arrangements in the tenancy agreements and smoking prevalence may go some way to explain why social housing tenants are far more likely to be exposed to SHS than tenants that rent privately.

<sup>2</sup> The GB survey finds that social housing residents are most likely to have someone that smokes in their home most days, while those that own/part own are least likely.

An even greater difference in the prevalence of smoke-free tenancy agreements by housing tenure is found in the 2018 GB YouGov survey<sup>3</sup>.

**Figure 4**



Unweighted base: All Welsh renters, n=206; Rent-private, n=129; rent- housing association, n=77

### Second-hand smoke exposure by children in the household

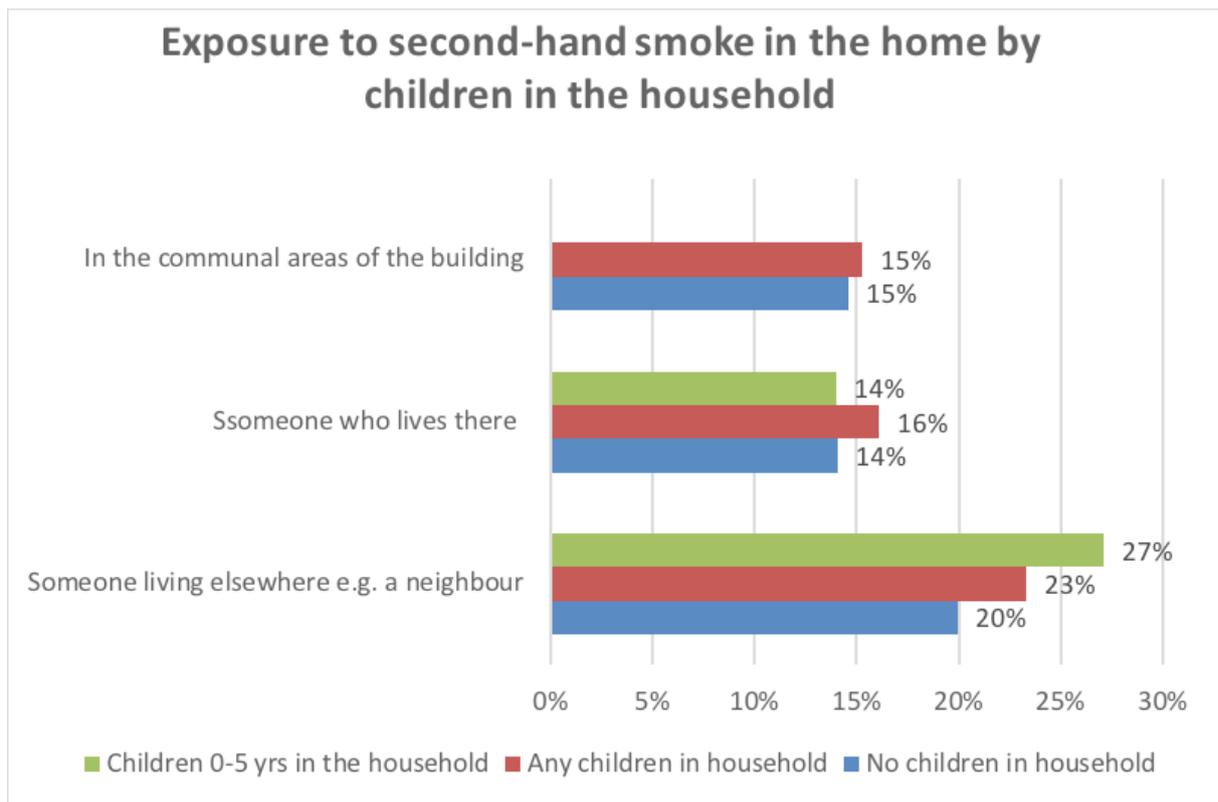
Figure 5 demonstrates that surprisingly, exposure to SHS in the household, from someone who lives there, from someone living elsewhere e.g. a neighbour and the communal areas of the building is slightly higher for adults in households with children relative to households without any children.

It is especially interesting that exposure to SHS from someone living elsewhere e.g. a neighbour is highest among respondents where there are children aged 0-5 years of age (27%) which compares to 20% of households without any children.

<sup>3</sup> Respondents that rent privately are found to be 5 times more likely to have a smoke-free arrangement in their tenancy agreement (50%) relative to social housing tenants (10%).

Very similar results are found in the GB survey.<sup>4</sup>

Figure 5



Unweighted base, excludes 'not applicable' respondents': children 0-5 in household, someone who lives there n=53, someone living elsewhere n=53; any children in household, communal areas of the building n=205, someone who lives there n=278, someone living elsewhere n=285; no children in household, communal areas of the building n=490, someone who lives there n=626, someone living elsewhere n=686;

<sup>4</sup> The GB survey finds that exposure to SHS is generally more commonly found in households with children, and SHS from a neighbour most commonly occurs in households with children aged 5 and under. However, differently to the Wales survey results, exposure to SHS in the communal areas of the building where respondents live is found to be very slightly more common in households without children (19%) compared to households with children (18%).