

# SmokeLess New Zealand

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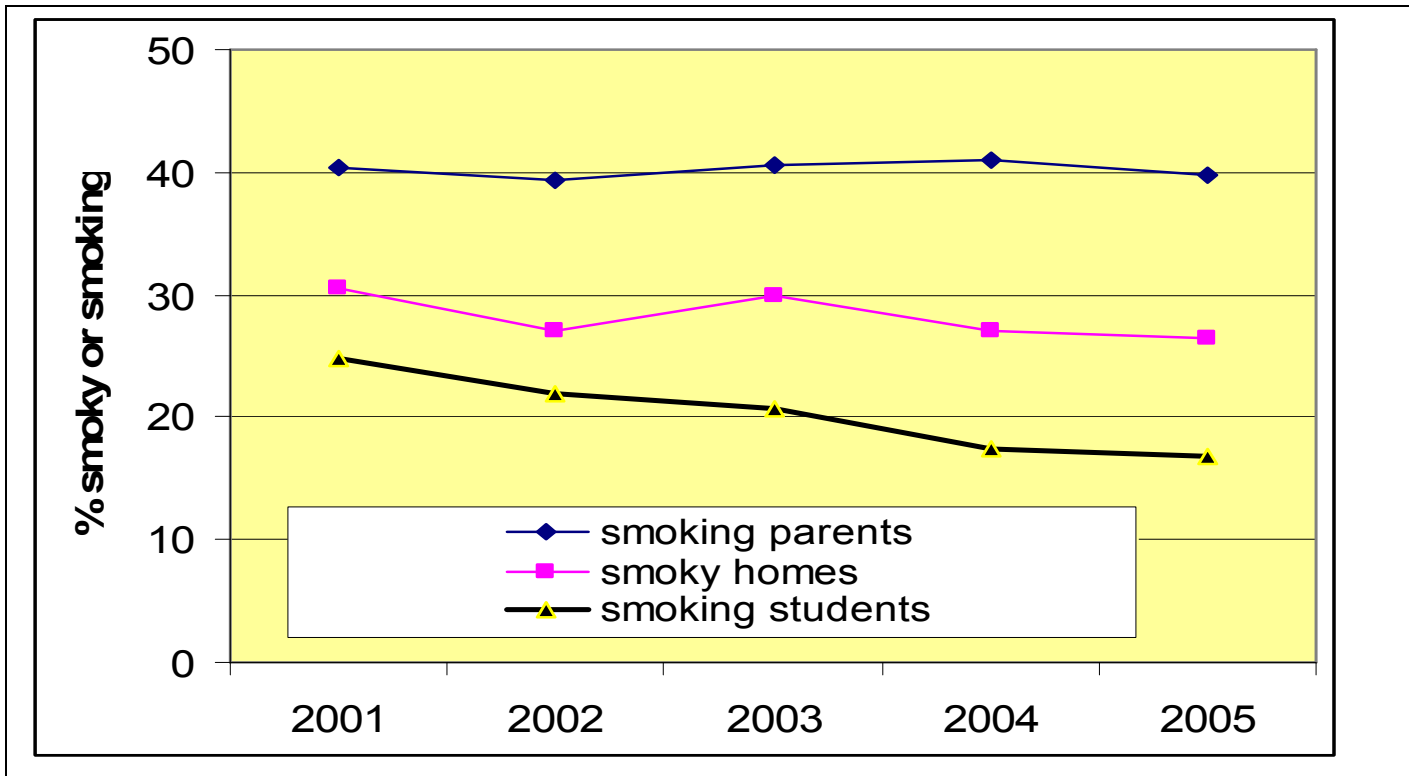
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## The trend to smokefree homes

As Figure 1 shows, adolescents report that their smoking is decreasing, but that smoking among their parents has not decreased, and more parents no longer permit smoking inside.

Between 2001 and 2005, the percentage of year 10 students living in a smoky home declined by 4 percentage points. However, smoking prevalence of parents as reported by these students, stayed constant during these years.

Figure 1. Smoking by parents, adolescents; and whether smoking permitted in the home



Source: based on data from ASH Year 10 surveys at [www.ash.org.nz](http://www.ash.org.nz). Students were asked if they smoked monthly or more often, and whether one, both or neither parent smoked. Estimations are based on two parents per student.

Results from the 2005 ASH survey confirm that homes are becoming less smokey even though parents are not reducing their smoking.

## Current government policy

- 1 Legislation for smokefree workplaces has established smokefree environments as the norm.
- 2 Government has a policy of promoting smokefree homes but not by legislation.
- 2 Government through the Quit Campaign and Health Sponsorship Council has funded a media campaign to promote smokefree homes in the last few years.
- 3 Government through Health Research Council has funded *Changing parents smoking behaviour to reduce uptake of smoking among children, in South Auckland*, a research project that will look into smokefree homes and other ways parents influence children's smoking.

## Why this policy should be strengthened with further funding as a top priority

*Research evidence on the importance of this policy for preventing adolescent smoking*

Laugesen M. Smokefree homes are the key to reducing adolescent smoking, and reducing parental smoking. 2004. Part of a presentation to Smokefree Auckland group, 14 July 2004.

[Smokefree homes04.ppt](#)

[smokefreehomes.pdf](#)

## ***Making the home smokefree will save lives: Smoky homes mean shorter lives for nonsmoking family members***

Wellington researchers (Hill, Blakely et al *BMJ* 2004) working from the 1996 Census question on smoking and subsequent death records, have shown that living with a smoker in the late 1990s in New Zealand, before smokers were asked to take the smoke outside, increased the risk of early death for never smokers in the same household over the next three years by over 20%. [SHSdeaths.pdf](#)