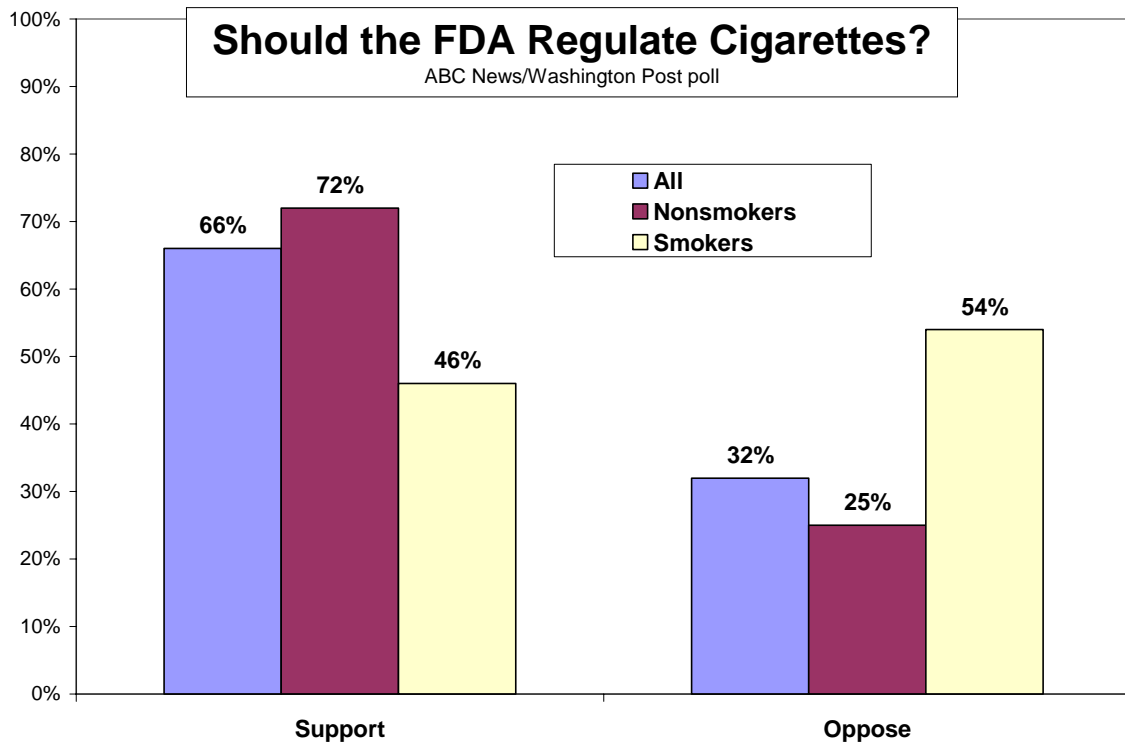


Broad Support for Cigarette Regs

When it comes to cigarettes and the FDA, Americans by a 2-1 margin say: Regulate 'em if you've got 'em.

Sixty-six percent in this ABC News/Washington Post poll support giving the FDA the power to regulate how cigarettes are produced, marketed and sold, a proposal before the U.S. Congress. Surprisingly, nearly half of smokers agree.

The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions has a session on the legislation scheduled today. It would add tobacco products to the roster of products the FDA oversees, including drugs, food and medical devices.



FDA regulation could mean greater restrictions on cigarettes' tar and nicotine content and on how they can be marketed and sold. Given the health risks associated with smoking, support for regulation isn't surprising: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cigarette smoking is responsible for nearly one in five deaths annually – about 438,000 per year.

SUPPORT – Support for regulation peaks, at 81 percent, among highly-educated Americans, compared with 58 percent of high-school graduates, and ranges from 77 percent of higher-income Americans to just 48 percent of those with household incomes under \$20,000. One likely reason is that lower-income and less-educated people are more apt to light up.

Among other groups, regulation is less popular among African-Americans, and also among conservatives. But it’s one of those relatively rare issues in which political partisanship does not play a role: Essentially equal numbers of Democrats, Republicans and independents alike support FDA oversight of cigarettes.

	Support FDA regulation
All	66%
Post-grad	81
HS or less	58
Income \$100K+	77
<\$20K	48
Whites	69
Blacks	58
Moderates	72
Liberals	69
Conservatives	59
Non-smokers	72
Smokers	46

SMOKERS – Naturally, non-smokers are more apt to favor greater regulation of cigarettes; it’s perhaps more surprising that 46 percent of smokers agree.

Opinions of smokers also are influenced by education and income; smokers who oppose FDA regulation tend to have lower education and lower incomes. They may be concerned about regulation resulting in higher cigarette prices.

A quarter of Americans smoke – a figure that’s held roughly stable for more than a decade, albeit down from a peak of 45 percent in a Gallup poll in 1954. Smoking is more common among younger people, as well, as noted, those with lower educations and incomes.

	% Smokers
All	26%
Age 18-29	37
65+	12
HS or less	33
Post-grad	7

<\$20K	43
Income \$100K+	16

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone July 18-21, 2007, among a random national sample of 1,125 adults. Additional interviews were conducted with an oversample of randomly selected African-Americans for a total of 210 black respondents. The results have a three-point error margin. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Patrick Moynihan.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollvault.html>.

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Full results follow (*= less than 0.5 percent).

1-45. Previously released or held for release.

46. Would you support or oppose giving the U.S. Food and Drug Administration the power to regulate cigarettes, which could lead to greater restrictions on their tar and nicotine content and how they can be marketed and sold?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
7/21/07	66	32	2

47-52. Previously released or held for release.

53. Have you yourself smoked any cigarettes in the past week?

	Yes	No
7/21/07	26	74
6/5/05	26	74
11/5/04*	22	78
7/11/04	25	75
11/5/03	26	74
7/9/03	25	75
7/11/02	24	76
7/22/01	28	72
11/15/00	25	75
9/26/99	23	77
6/23/98	28	72
9/28/97	26	74
6/29/97	26	74
6/24/97	26	74
5/7/97	25	75
3/26/97	27	73
5/12/96	27	73
7/17/94	27	73
3/13/94	27	73
11/10/91	28	72
7/8/90	27	73
5/18/89	27	73
4/9/89	29	71

7/7/88	32	68
3/18/87	30	70
6/16/86	31	69
6/10/85	35	65
1983	38	62
6/29/81	35	65
1/23/78	36	64
8/22/77	38	62
5/13/74	40	60
4/24/72	43	57
5/17/71	42	58
7/29/69	40	60
6/57	42	58
6/54	45	55
10/49	44	56
11/44	41	59

*11/5/04 and previous: Gallup

*****END*****