

Introduction

Many studies have reported that local, comprehensive smoke-free workplace policies decrease smoking prevalence in the general population. The literature also finds that sexual and gender minority (SGM) individuals have a higher smoking prevalence and are less supportive of smoke-free policies compared to the general population.

The purpose of this study is to explore the relationship between living in a community with a smoke-free policy, smoking status, support for smoke-free indoor workplace policies (including bars and restaurants), and intention to quit among smokers among SGM individuals living in Missouri.

Methods

Data were from the Out, Proud and Healthy survey collected anonymously from pride festivals in Missouri during the summers of 2008, 2010, 2011, and 2012 for a total of 12,184 SGM participants.

An algorithm based on participant age, gender, sexual orientation, and race was used to identify participants who had completed the survey more than once over the four years of data collection. In these cases, only the most recent survey for a repeat respondent was kept in the pooled dataset ($N=8,409$). Participants were excluded from analyses if they lived out of state ($N=1,306$), were missing ZIP codes (1,740), were heterosexuals ($N=1,262$), or were missing sexual orientation ($N=14$), bringing the final dataset to $N=4,087$.

For analyses, partial and comprehensive smoke-free policies were combined into one category. A comprehensive policy includes workplaces, bars, and restaurants, while a partial policy could contain any of these components.

Chi-square, Kruskal-Wallis, post-hoc pairwise comparisons, and Wilcoxon two-sample tests were used during analysis.

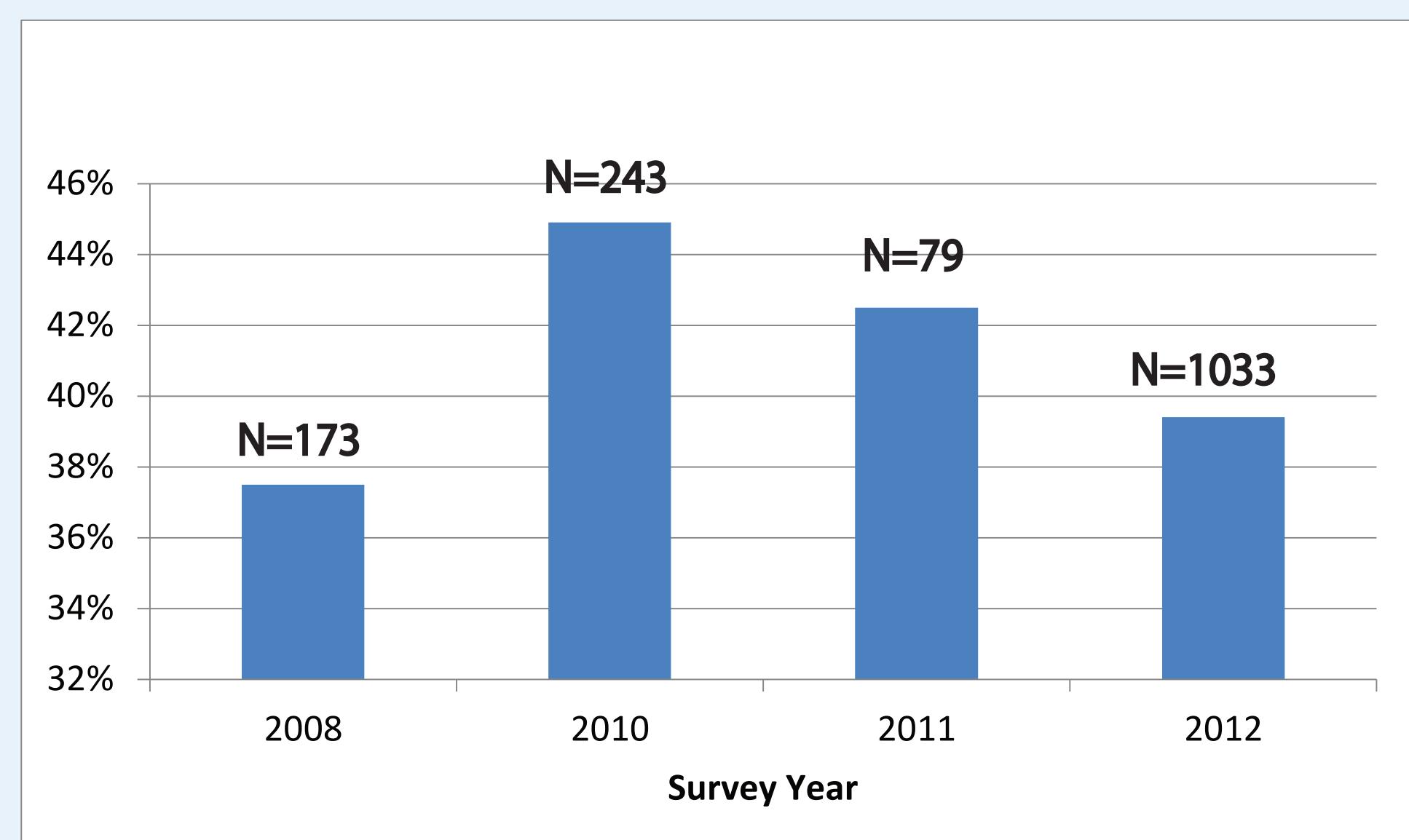


Figure 1.
Percentage of
SGM Current
Smokers by
Survey Year

Acknowledgements

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Table 1. Missouri SGM Participant Characteristics

	N	%
Age (in years)		
18-24	1323	33.5
25-34	1052	26.6
35-44	702	17.8
45-54	573	14.5
55+	302	7.6
Sexual orientation/gender identity		
Lesbian	1390	34.4
Gay	1456	36.0
Bisexual - male	187	4.6
Bisexual - female	528	13.1
Other sexual and gender minority	272	6.7
Transsexual/transgender	210	5.2
Education ¹		
High school degree or less	370	14.3
Technical school, some college, or two-year college degree	911	35.1
Four-year college degree or more	1312	50.6
Race/ethnicity		
White	2770	68.9
Black	685	17.0
Other	337	8.4
Hispanic	230	5.7
Smoking status		
Never	1800	44.9
Former	647	16.1
Current	1566	39.0
Intention to quit smoking ²		
Some intention	1126	89.7
No intention	129	10.3
Do you support smoke-free policies in all indoor workplaces, including restaurants and bars?		
Yes	2476	63.7
Other	1413	36.3
Incorporated place smoke-free policy coverage		
Comprehensive	1396	34.2
Partial	1811	44.3
None	880	21.5

¹Participants ≥ 25 years of age

²Current smokers only

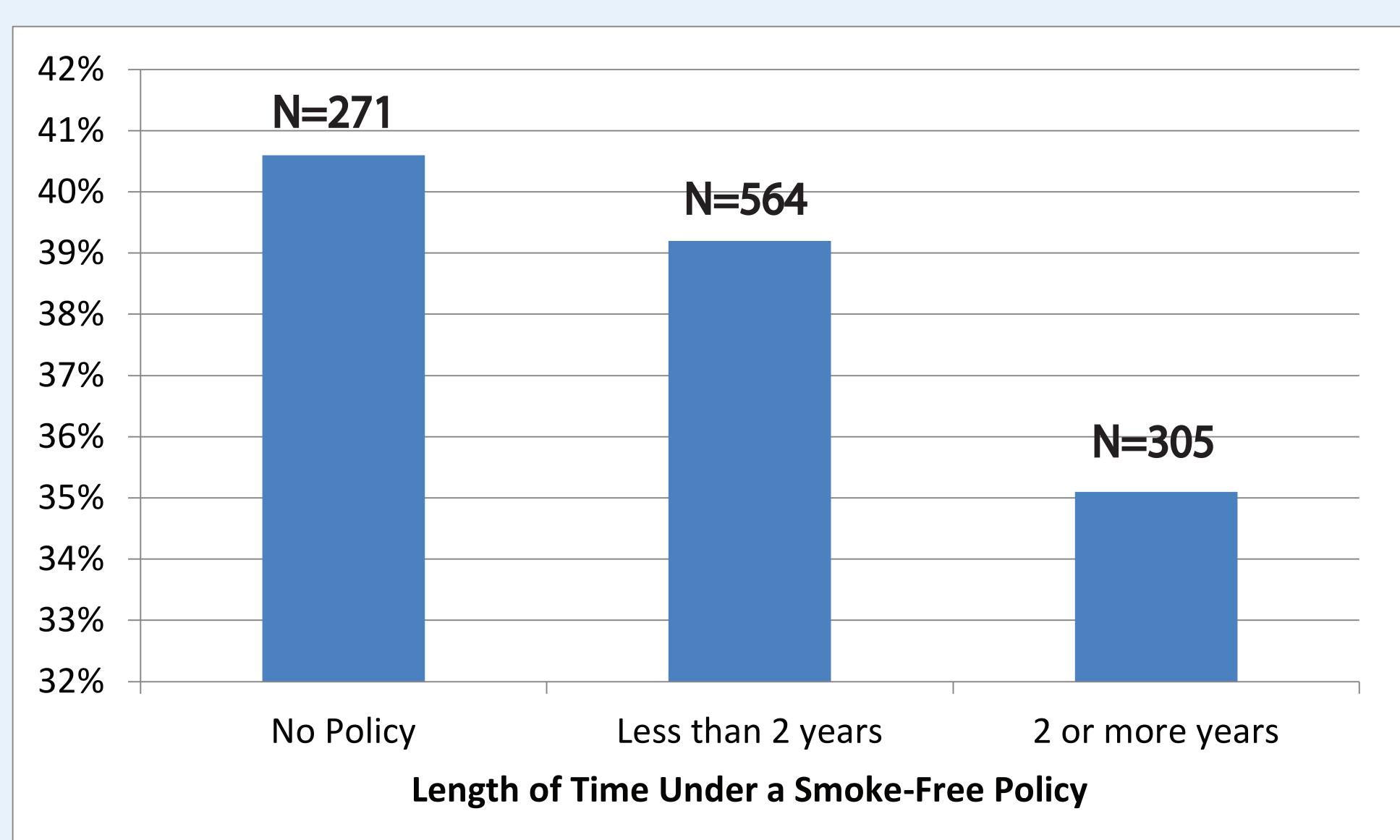


Figure 2.
Percentage of SGM
Current Smokers
by Length of Time
Under a
Smoke-Free Policy

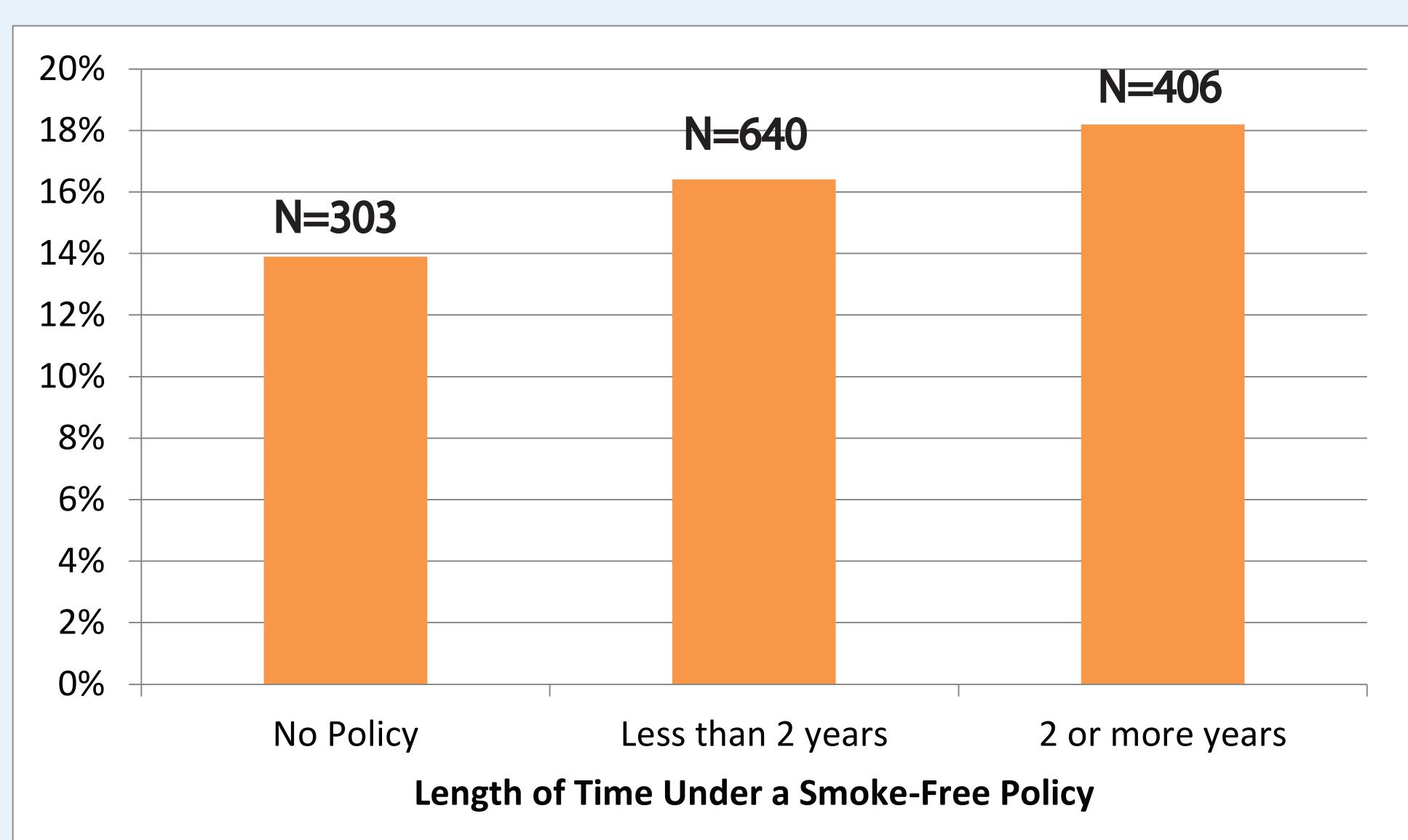
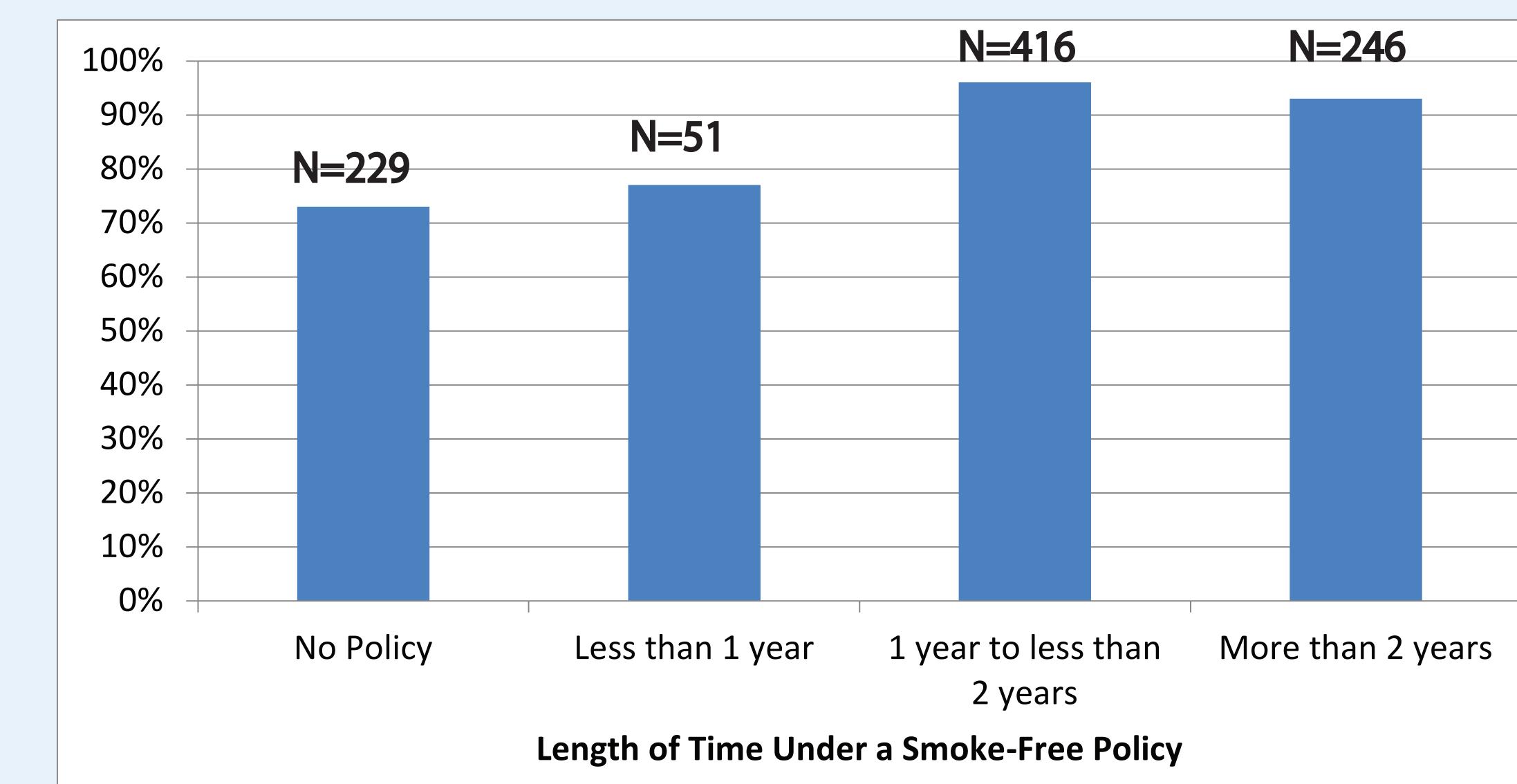


Figure 3.
Percentage of SGM
Former Smokers
by Length of Time
Under a
Smoke-Free Policy

Figure 4. Percentage of SGM Current Smokers with Intention to Quit Smoking by Length of Time Under a Smoke-Free Policy



Results

Smoking status (never, former, current) was not statistically significantly different among the four years of survey collection. (Figure 1)

The length of time (in years) under a smoke-free policy was significantly different between never smokers ($M=1.6$, $SD=1.9$) and current smokers ($M=1.4$, $SD=1.8$) as well as between former smokers ($M=1.7$, $SD=1.9$) and current smokers, with current smokers having the shortest length of time under a smoke-free policy.

The percentage of current smokers was significantly lower among SGM people living under a smoke-free policy for two or more years compared to those not living under a smoke-free policy. (Figure 2) Conversely, there were significantly more former smokers living under a smoke-free policy for two or more years compared to those not living under a policy. (Figure 3)

Intention to quit smoking among current smokers was significantly higher among those living under a policy for 2 or more years compared to those not living under a policy. (Figure 4)

The results indicated that support for smoke-free indoor workplace policies (including bars and restaurants) was significantly different by length of time under a smoke-free policy, with policy supporters having a longer length of time under a smoke-free policy.

Conclusions

The results of this study indicate that similar to the general population, smoke-free policies may be effective in increasing intention to quit smoking among current smokers and reducing overall smoking prevalence in the SGM population.

The length of time under a smoke-free policy is an important factor in smoking behaviors, though a one year lag after a policy goes into effect was observed before decreases in smoking prevalence were seen.