

# *The presence of children in outdoor public spaces*

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# Background:

- The idea of ‘children’s outdoor environments’ is often restricted to playgrounds, sportsfields and parks



- The presence of children in shopping streets and alfresco areas is little described



# Aim

To find the prevalence and numbers of children in outdoor places

# Methods

From our 2011 observation data on the prevalence of smoking in public outdoor places, we extracted:

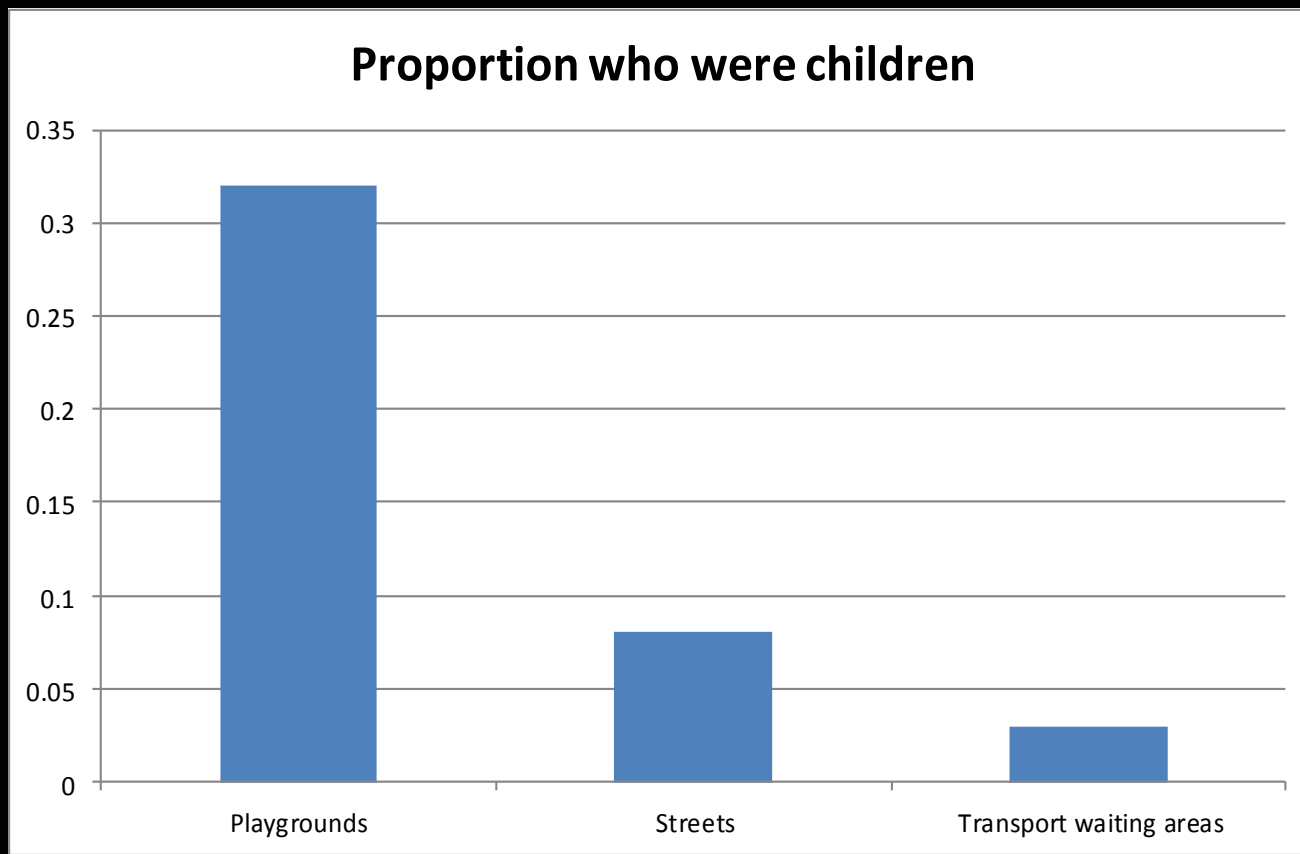
- the number and prevalence of children
- in a range of places in England, Scotland and New Zealand

Thomson et al. Informing outdoor smokefree policy. *Health Place*. 2013 Mar;20:19-24

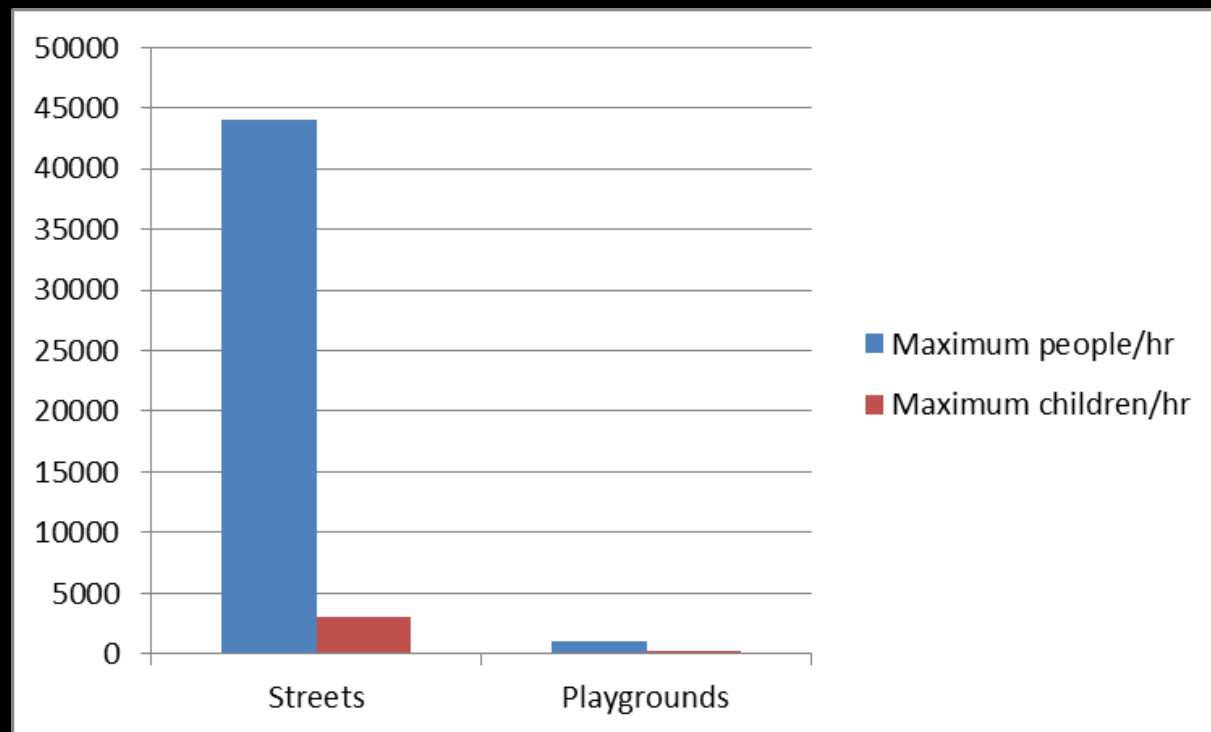


# Results

- 5553 people were observed at 91 outdoor locations
- Of these, 733 appeared to be children aged 12 or under (13% of the total)



- *However*, streets have more people than playgrounds (up to 44,000/hr v under 1000/hr)
- The *number* of children in a setting can be up to 3000/hr in streets v under 300/hr in playgrounds



# Conclusions

- We need to consider children in places *not* normally thought of as ‘children’s places’
- We may need to adapt behaviours and physical spaces: eg, smokefree outdoor policies

It's not cool to bring ciggies or stubbies onto the sand.



## Child Friendly Cities

