



Baseline Assessment of Knowledge, Attitude and Perception of Smokers and Non-smokers in Nigeria Regarding Tobacco Harm Reduction Strategy

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Background

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Nigerians smoke 20 billion cigarettes annually—FG

Published August 1, 2017

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SOURCE: <https://punchng.com/4-5-million-nigerians-smoke-20-billion-cigarettes-yearly-fg>



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7m smokers die yearly in Nigeria, say FMoH, CISLAC

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Should we deprive smokers of the information?

Having known the scientific consensus that tobacco cigarettes are the most deadly form of nicotine consumption, tobacco smokers have a right to clearly understand this and make informed decisions on available tobacco harm reduction strategy available.



The purpose of our study: was to assess the **knowledge, attitude and perception** of smokers and nonsmokers in Nigeria regarding tobacco harm reduction strategy.



METHOD

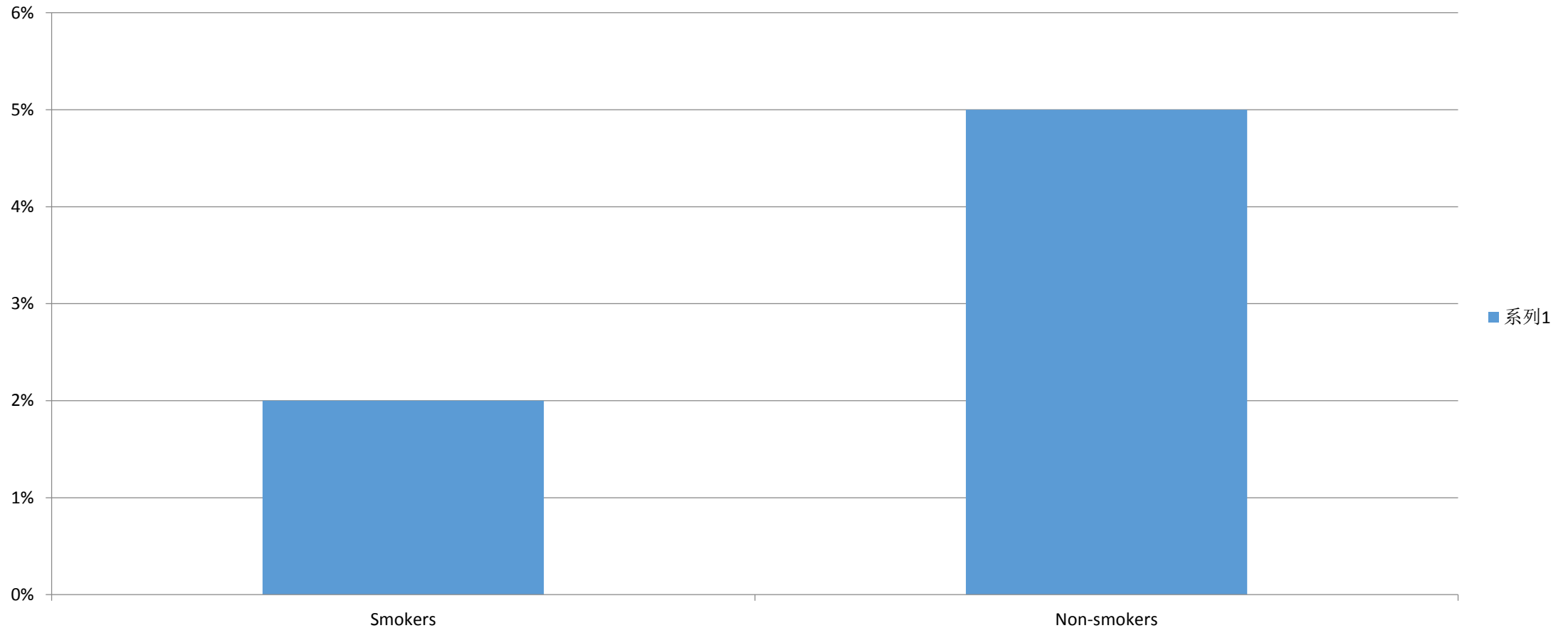
- This study was a cross-sectional survey of smokers and non-smokers in Nigeria.
- We collected data on their knowledge, attitude and perception regarding tobacco harm reduction strategies including their demographic characteristics. After the knowledge assessment, the smokers only were enlightened on tobacco harm reduction.
- For the nonsmokers, the study tool was a 10-item questionnaire. Data obtained were analyzed using descriptive statistics. While for the smokers, semi-questionnaire interview was carried out.
- Data were analyzed, extracted and summarized.

The tobacco harm reduction strategy focused on in this study is the e-cigarettes

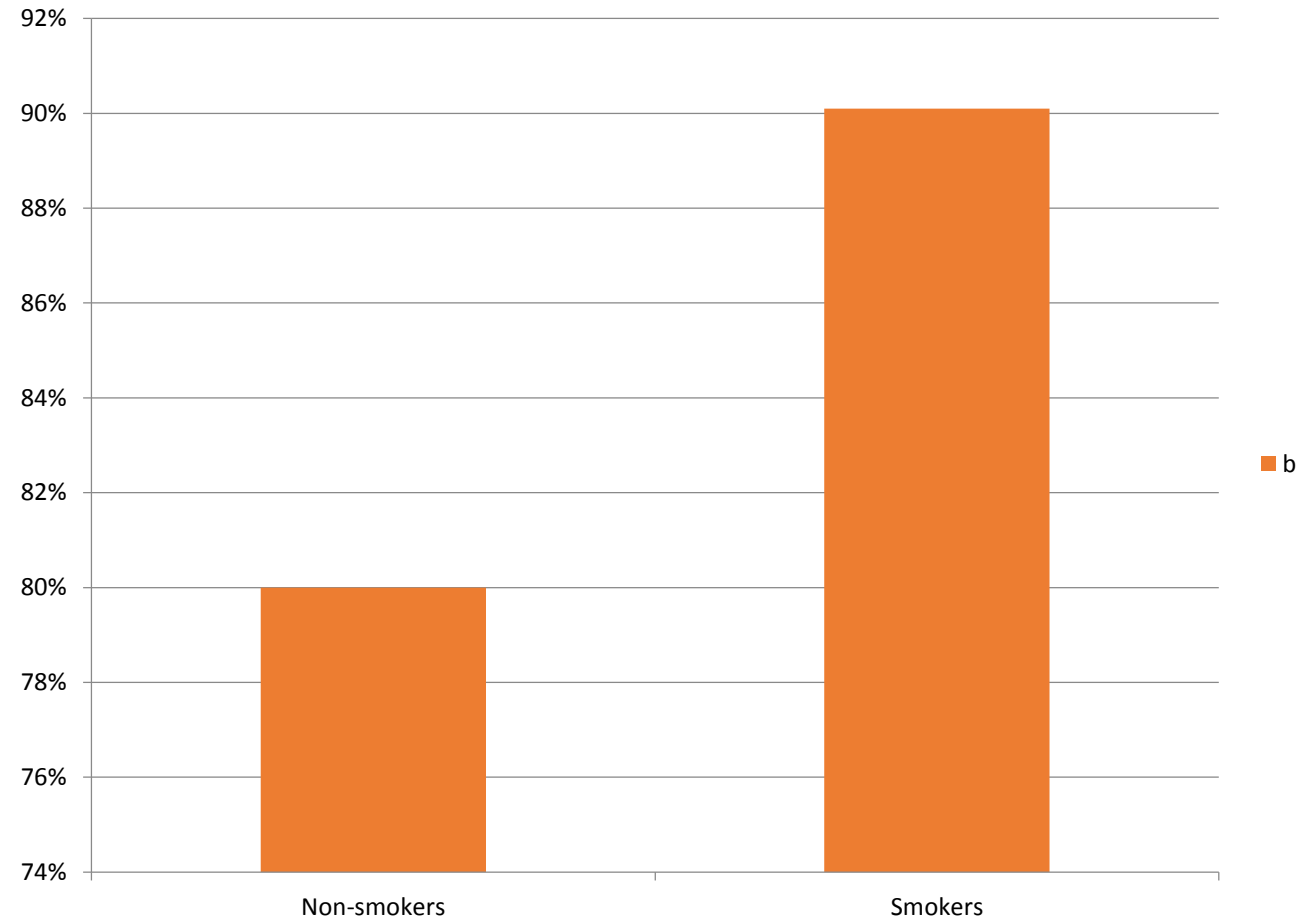
RESULT

- A total of 30 current smokers(Male=22, Female=8) and 80 non-smokers(Male=46, Female=34) participated in the study.
- The median age of the smokers is 32 while for the non-smokers is 22
- 80% (n=64) of the non-smokers and 90.1% (n=27) of the smokers perceived tobacco harm reduction products to be excellent.
- 90%(n=72) of the non-smokers perceived that tobacco harm reduction should be made available while 70% (n=21) of the smokers would prefer to use alternative nicotine products but availability is a challenge.
- 100% of both the smokers and the non-smokers believed that public enlightenment on tobacco harm reduction in the country is poor.
- Only 20% (n=6) of the smokers and 30% (n=24) of the non-smokers knew that electronic cigarette is legal in Nigeria.
- 98%(n=79) of the non-smokers believed tobacco harm reduction strategy will reduce the risk that secondhand smokers are exposed to.

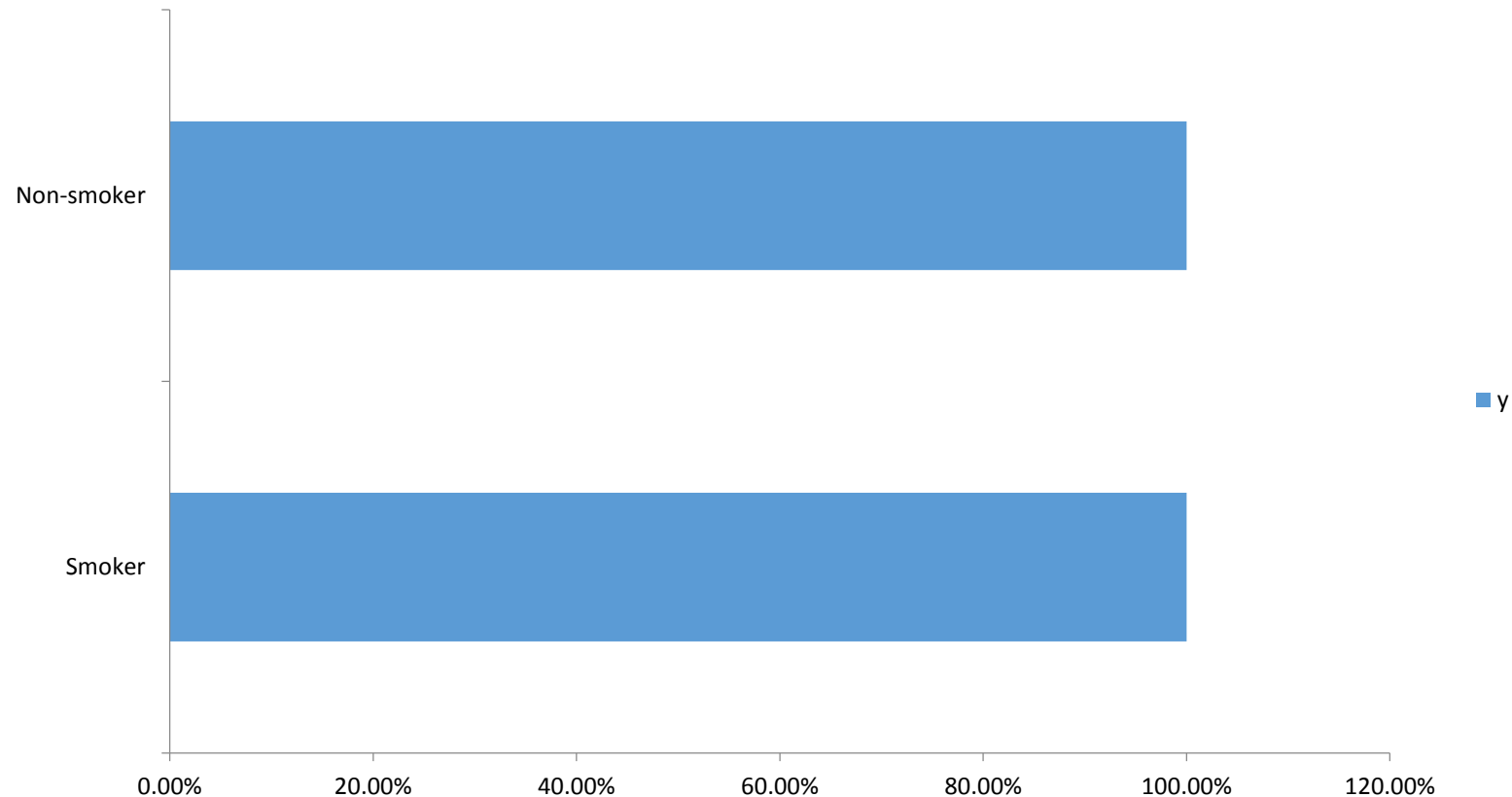
10% (n=3) and 5%(n=4) of the smokers and non-smokers respectively have heard of e-cigarette before this study



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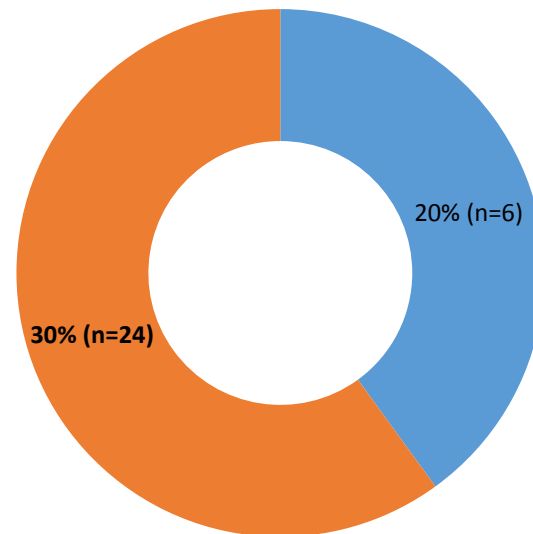


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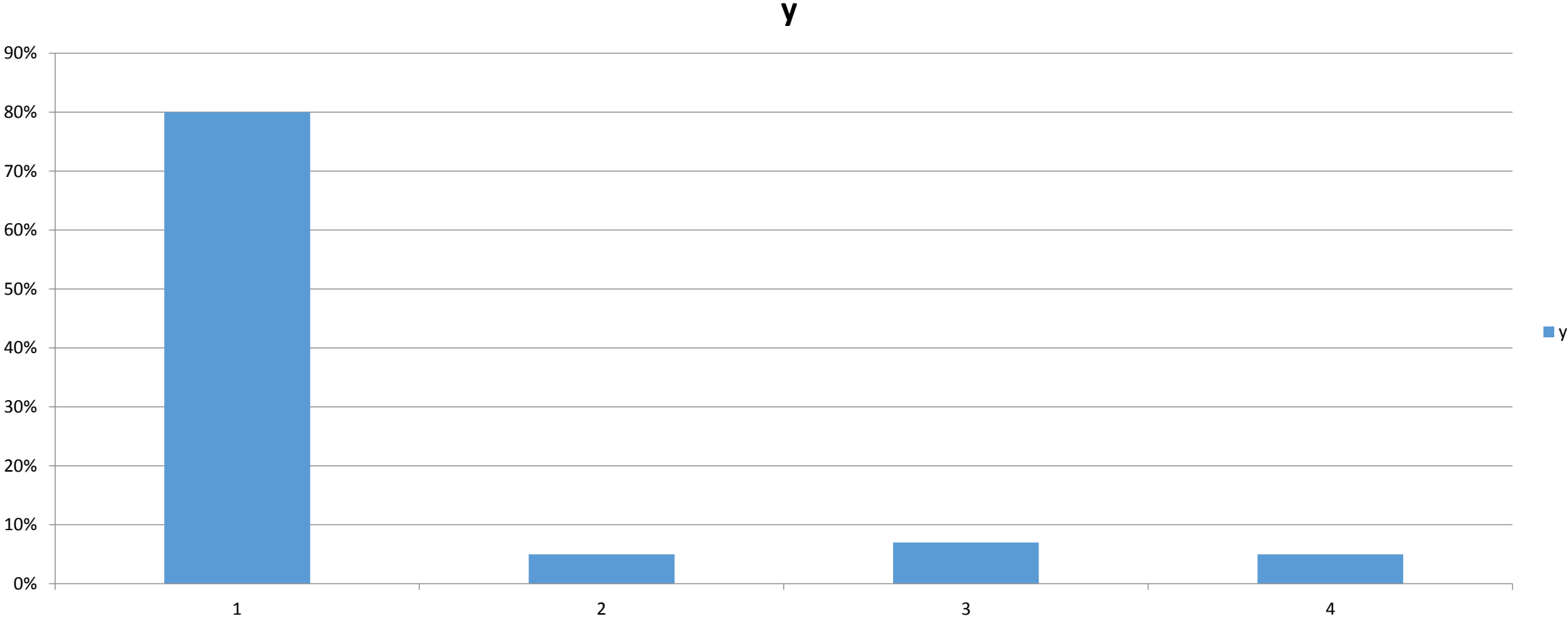


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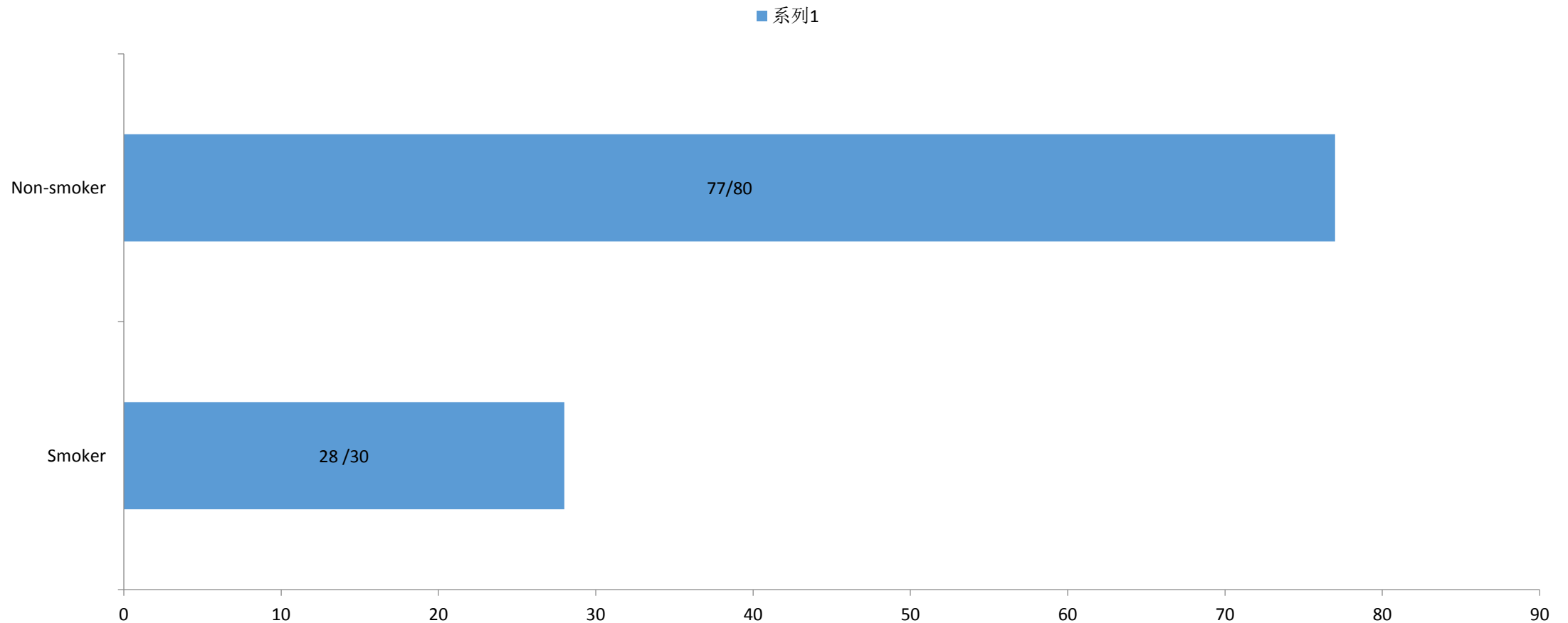
■ smokers ■ non-smokers



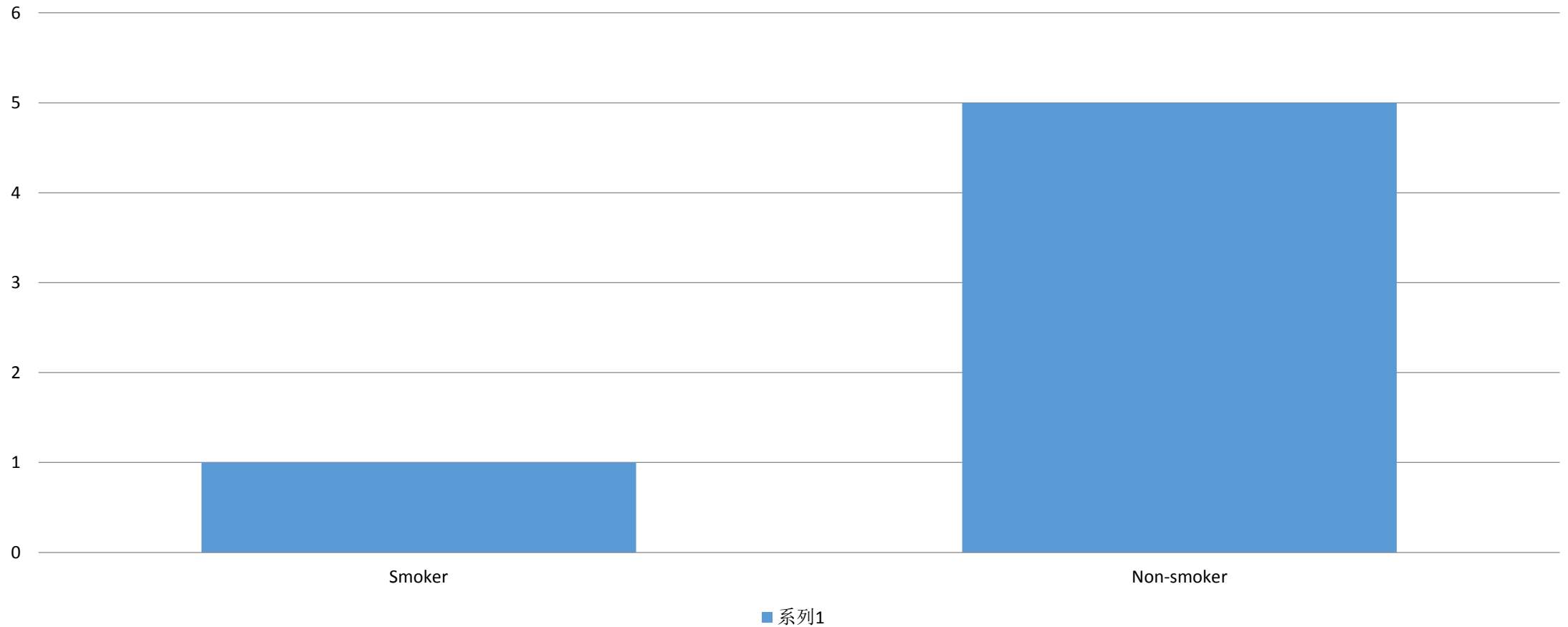
The smoker's major reason of desiring to quit is health concerns and **80% desire safer alternatives.**



Misconception: Nicotine can cause cancer



Have you seen vaping devices before?



Key Findings

- **The awareness and knowledge level regarding tobacco harm reduction is low in Nigeria.**
- **Acceptability and curiosity about tobacco harm reduction were noted.**
- **Misconception about tobacco harm reduction was high.**
- **Availability of e-cigarette was considered low in Nigerian Market**
- **Enlightenment of the smokers increased interest and acceptability**
- **The smoker's major reason of desiring to quit was health concerns.**
- **Non-smokers perceived tobacco harm reduction to be acceptable and ecofriendly.**

Recommendations

- We suggest further studies to cover more smokers and non-smokers which will ensure effective policy making in the country.
- We recommend that governments should achieve their responsibilities by creating policy, regulation and legislation that enables smokers to have access to information and services about products that can reduce the harm caused from smoking.

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