



## Secondhand Smoke is Dangerous

- In 2005, 581 Minnesota infants and adults died from exposure to secondhand smoke. (BlueCross BlueShield of Minnesota)
- Secondhand smoke can cause emphysema, asthma, pneumonia, lung cancer, chronic bronchitis, and heart disease. (U.S. Centers for Disease Control)
- According to the U.S. Surgeon General, there is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke. (2006 Surgeon General's Report)

## The Market for Smoke-Free Housing

Research by Live Smoke Free (2009):

- Over 30% percent of Twin Cities renters report that smoke gets into their unit at least a few times a month.
- 33% of those experiencing smoke say it bothers them so much that they have thought of moving.
- Over 50% of renters are “extremely” or “very” interested in living in a smoke-free building.
- Many renters would pay more rent and make other sacrifices such as walking farther to a bus stop or driving farther to work if they could live in a smoke-free building.

## The Benefits of Smoke-Free Multi-Housing

- Reduced costs: Cleaning costs are lower when units don't have the smell of smoke, cigarette burns, or smoking residue.
- Fewer fire risks: Smoking-related fires are deadly and costly. Smoke-free policies eliminate the source of smoking-related fires.
- Smoke-free policies are legal: A building owner/manager can legally make a rental building—including individual units or the entire property—100% smoke free.



## About the Live Smoke Free Program

The Live Smoke Free program promotes smoke-free policies for apartment buildings. Currently, Minnesota tenants seeking smoke-free multi-unit housing largely outnumber the amount of smoke-free units available.

In order to increase the number of smoke-free buildings in Minnesota, Live Smoke Free educates building owners, managers, local policy makers, tenants, and housing industry professionals about the benefits of smoke-free buildings. Live Smoke Free assists building owners and managers with creating and promoting a smoke-free policy for their property.

The program also assists tenants in finding solutions to secondhand smoke problems. Tenants can learn how to talk to their landlord about creating a smoke-free policy for the building.

Live Smoke Free is a program of the Association for Nonsmokers—Minnesota that focuses on the Twin Cities metro area with grant funding from the Minnesota Department of Health.

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**Smoke-Free Multi-Housing:  
Healthier Buildings, Happier Tenants,  
A Smart Investment.**