



West Saint Paul Multi-Unit Housing Resident Exposure to Secondhand Smoke and Perceptions of Smoke-Free Housing Policies

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Association for Nonsmokers - Minnesota, Live Smoke Free Program
Dakota County Public Health Department

In partnership with the City of West Saint Paul, Minnesota

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City of West Saint Paul
West Saint Paul Responsible Owners and Managers Association
South Metro Fire Department
Dakota County Community Development Agency
Professional Data Analysts

Staff and Residents of:

785 Dodd Road
Aspen Ridge
Colleen Loney Manor
Covington Court Apartments
Haskell Court
Oakdale Terrace Apartments
The Dakotah
Westview Park Apartments

When referring to tobacco in our work, we are referring to commercial tobacco products and not tobacco used for sacred purposes by Indigenous communities.

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Background

The health risks associated with secondhand tobacco smoke exposure are irrefutable. In 2006, the United States Surgeon General warned that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke.¹ It has been linked to many serious health conditions including cancer, stroke, and heart disease, just to name a few. Many of the same toxic chemicals found in secondhand tobacco smoke are also found in secondhand marijuana smoke and, in some cases, in higher amounts.² Although illegal in Minnesota, secondhand marijuana smoke exposure is a growing concern.

In the United States renters and people living in poverty are more likely to be exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke than homeowners and people not living in poverty.³ Black Americans and other communities of color also experience higher rates of exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke and are over-represented in rental housing.^{4,5} Smoke-free housing policies have been shown to reduce secondhand smoke exposure, and are an important tool for reducing these disparities, especially in affordable housing.

Thirdhand smoke exposure poses additional risks related to smoking in multi-unit housing. Thirdhand smoke refers to the residual chemicals left in the air and on surfaces after smoking has occurred. Thirdhand smoke can be ingested, absorbed through the skin, or inhaled. It can remain in a home for months or even years after smoking occurred.⁶ Smoke-free housing policies can prevent the build-up of thirdhand smoke and protect current and future residents from exposure.

The benefits of smoke-free housing policies go beyond the important health protections. Property owners and managers also benefit from cost savings due to reduced maintenance and cleaning needs and potential insurance savings. The Dakota County Community Development Agency estimates that a heavily smoke-damaged apartment costs 7 times more than a smoke-free unit to turnover.

¹ Office on Smoking and Health (US). The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta (GA): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US); 2006. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK44324/>

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Secondhand Marijuana Smoke, <https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana/health-effects/second-hand-smoke.html>, accessed March 7, 2022

³ National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, Vital Signs, February 2015, <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/tobacco/index.html>

⁴ National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, Vital Signs, February 2015, <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/tobacco/index.html>

⁵ Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, Systemic racism haunts homeownership rates in Minnesota, February 25, 2021, https://www.minneapolisfed.org/article/2021/systemic-racism-haunts-homeownership-rates-in-minnesota#_ftnref1

⁶ Thirdhand Smoke Resource Center, Frequently Asked Questions, <https://thirdhandsmoke.org/faq/>, accessed March 7, 2022

Furthermore, smoke-free housing policies provide the added benefit of reduced fire risk. Data from the South Metro Fire Department, which serves the cities of West St. Paul and South St. Paul, show that from 2018-2020 one in three fires in those cities were smoking related. In 2019 only one in 50 fires statewide were smoking related. Smoke-free policies reduce the risk of fire, protect resident safety, and protect property owners' investments.

Since 2009, Dakota County Public Health Department (DCPH) and Live Smoke Free (LSF), a program of the Association for Nonsmokers - Minnesota, have worked in partnership to increase smoke-free housing availability in the County with support from the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership of the Minnesota Department of Health. As a result of this work, DCPH and LSF estimate that approximately 55% of multi-unit housing (MUH) properties in Dakota County have smoke-free policies; however, only approximately 46% of MUH properties in West St. Paul have smoke-free policies.⁷ This limited availability of smoke-free housing leaves many West St. Paul residents unprotected from secondhand smoke in their homes.

To explore the need for smoke-free housing in West St. Paul, DCPH and LSF collaborated with the City of West St. Paul to gather community data to inform potential collaborative strategies to promote smoke-free housing opportunities. In 2021, LSF and DCPH surveyed residents and property managers of eight West St. Paul MUH properties. The goal of the survey was to understand resident and staff exposure to secondhand smoke and inform strategies to reduce secondhand smoke exposure in West St. Paul buildings.

Method

Survey Development

LSF and DCPH developed the survey with input from the City of West St. Paul. Survey questions were based on similar surveys conducted in other Twin Cities metro communities.⁸ The survey and accompanying materials were translated into Spanish for four properties. No other languages were requested. LSF printed and assembled survey materials into packets for residents. Property managers had the option to complete their survey via hard copy or online.

Recruitment

LSF and DCPH sought to survey at least six MUH properties with a balance of smoke-free vs. smoking-allowed properties and market rate vs. affordable/subsidized properties. LSF and DCPH met with West St. Paul's Responsible Owners and Managers Association in March 2021 and recruited four MUH partners from that group. An additional four MUH partners were recruited through direct outreach. Of the eight MUH partners, four were market-rate and four

⁷ This estimate is based on internal records from the Association for Nonsmokers - Minnesota

⁸ To view reports from similar surveys in Eden Prairie, Ramsey County, and Brooklyn Park, go to www.mnsmokefreehousing.org/news

were affordable/subsidized. Of the 36 buildings located at the eight properties, 12 were smoke-free and 16 were smoking allowed (one property had a mix of smoke-free and smoking allowed buildings). The properties surveyed had a combined total of 833 units.

	Smoke-Free Properties			Smoking-Allowed Properties		
		# Buildings	# Units		# Buildings	# Units
Market Rate	785 Dodd Rd Surveyed May 2021	1	12	Westview Park Surveyed June 2021 Spanish translation	11	239
	Aspen Ridge Surveyed May 2021	1	12			
	Westview Park Surveyed June 2021 Spanish translation	3	59			
	Oakdale Terrace Surveyed July 2021 Spanish translation	4	170			
Subsidized	Colleen Loney Manor Surveyed September 2021	1	80	Covington Court Surveyed July - September 2021 Spanish translation	5	160
	Haskell Court Surveyed September 2021	1	42			
	The Dakotah Surveyed September 2021 Spanish translation	1	59			

Incentives

LSF and DCPH offered each property manager a \$50 Target gift card in appreciation of their time and effort to assist with the survey. Residents who completed a survey were given a \$10 Target gift card.

Survey Process and Timeline

Surveys were conducted between May 2021 and September 2021. LSF coordinated with property managers to determine a timeline for survey distribution and collection. LSF provided survey packets and gift cards to property managers. The property managers distributed one packet to each unit at the property. Residents had 1-2 weeks to complete the survey. Property managers were asked to remind residents to complete the survey and LSF provided reminder flyers to be posted. Property managers collected completed surveys and distributed gift cards to residents. LSF picked up completed surveys and tabulated the results. Professional Data Analysts, a local health and wellness focused evaluation firm, analyzed the data.

The overall response rate of the resident survey was 27.6% (n=230) and the overall response rate of the property manager survey was 100% (n=6). Two hundred eleven (211, 92%) surveys were completed in English and 19 (8%) surveys were completed in Spanish.

Key Findings from Resident Survey

- More than half of respondents (53%) are exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke every day, multiple times per week, multiple times per month, or multiple times per year.
- More than one third of respondents (37%) are exposed to secondhand marijuana smoke every day, multiple times per week, multiple times per month, or multiple times per year.
- 19 respondents cited health problems due to secondhand smoke exposure including asthma, headaches, breathing problems, nausea/vomiting, cough/sore throat/congestion, and sneezing/stuffy nose
- Twenty percent (20%) of respondents were not sure where smoking was permitted or not permitted at their building and many respondents incorrectly identified where smoking was permitted or not permitted at their building.
- Sixty-six percent (66%) of respondents from buildings where smoking is allowed strongly or somewhat support a smoke-free policy for their building.
- The majority (91%) of respondents support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring that property owners disclose what the smoking policy is for the building prior to moving in. This includes 86% of respondents from smoking-allowed buildings and 83% of tobacco users.
- The majority (75%) of respondents support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring apartment buildings to be smoke free. This includes 63% of respondents from smoking-allowed buildings and 39% of tobacco users.

Key Findings from Property Manager Survey

- Eighty-three percent (83%, n=5) of respondents indicated that it costs an extra \$300 or more to turnover an apartment that has been smoked in.
- Most respondents (n=5) sometimes receive complaints from residents about secondhand smoke and one respondent (n=1) receives complaints frequently.
- All respondents (n=6) support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring that property owners disclose what the smoking policy is for the building prior to moving in.
- Half of respondents (n=3) support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring apartment buildings to be smoke free.

Resident Survey Results

Demographics

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market-rate		Subsidized		Smoke free		Smoking allowed	
What is your age?	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No response	5	2.20%	2	1.7%	3	2.7%	5	3.1%	0	0.0%
18-25	10	4.30%	9	7.5%	1	0.9%	4	2.5%	6	8.6%
26-55	92	40.00%	66	55.0%	26	23.6%	58	36.3%	34	48.6%
56-65	48	20.90%	24	20.0%	24	21.8%	33	20.6%	15	21.4%
Over 65	75	32.60%	19	15.8%	56	50.9%	60	37.5%	15	21.4%
Total	230	100.00%	120	100.0%	110	100.0%	160	100.0%	70	100.0%

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market-rate		Subsidized		Smoke free		Smoking allowed	
Which of the following do you consider yourself? (Check all that apply.)	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
White	148	64.3%	78	65.0%	70	63.6%	107	66.9%	41	58.6%
Hispanic or Latino	45	19.6%	25	20.8%	20	18.2%	33	20.6%	12	17.1%
Black or African American	32	13.9%	16	13.3%	16	14.5%	19	11.9%	13	18.6%
American Indian or Alaska Native	5	2.2%	3	2.5%	2	1.8%	4	2.5%	1	1.4%
Asian or Asian American	5	2.2%	2	1.7%	3	2.7%	3	1.9%	2	2.9%
Other	3	1.3%	2	1.7%	0	0.0%	2	1.3%	1	1.4%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	2	0.9%	2	1.7%	1	0.9%	1	0.6%	1	1.4%

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market-rate		Subsidized		Smoke free		Smoking allowed	
What was your household income last year? This was your total income before taxes, or gross income, of all persons in your household combined for last year.	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No response	21	9.1%	10	8.3%	11	10.0%	18	11.3%	3	4.3%
\$23,000 or less	121	52.6%	39	32.5%	82	74.5%	91	56.9%	30	42.9%
\$23,001-\$39,000	43	18.7%	29	24.2%	14	12.7%	25	15.6%	18	25.7%
\$39,001-\$55,000	22	9.6%	19	15.8%	3	2.7%	14	8.8%	8	11.4%
\$55,001-\$79,000	17	7.4%	17	14.2%	0	0.0%	8	5.0%	9	12.9%
\$79,001-\$100,000	5	2.2%	5	4.2%	0	0.0%	4	2.5%	1	1.4%
More than \$100,000	1	0.4%	1	0.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.4%
Total	230	100.0%	120	100.0%	110	100.0%	160	100.0%	70	100.0%

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market-rate		Subsidized		Smoke free		Smoking allowed	
In the last month, which of the following tobacco products have you used? Check all that apply.	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
I haven't used any of these products in the last month	178	77.4%	96	80.0%	82	74.5%	126	78.8%	52	74.3%
Cigarettes	28	12.2%	12	10.0%	16	14.5%	17	10.6%	11	15.7%
E-cigarettes/vapes	9	3.9%	6	5.0%	3	2.7%	5	3.1%	4	5.7%
Cigars	5	2.2%	4	3.3%	1	0.9%	2	1.3%	3	4.3%
Hookahs	1	0.4%	1	0.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.4%

The Apartment That You Live In

In total, how long have you lived in your current apartment building?	N	%
	1	0.4%
Less than 1 year	26	11.3%
1-5 years	97	42.2%
6-10 years	49	21.3%
More than 10 years	57	24.8%
Total	230	100.0%

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market-rate		Subsidized		Smoke free		Smoking allowed	
Are there children under the age of 18 living in your apartment?	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No	193	83.9%	91	75.8%	102	92.7%	138	86.3%	55	78.6%
Yes	37	16.1%	29	24.2%	8	7.3%	22	13.8%	15	21.4%
Total	230	100.0%	120	100.0%	110	100.0%	160	100.0%	70	100.0%

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market-rate		Subsidized		Smoke free		Smoking allowed	
Are there adults over 65 (including yourself if applicable) living in your apartment?	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No response	3	1.3%	3	2.5%	0	0.0%	1	0.6%	2	2.9%
No	156	67.8%	96	80.0%	60	54.5%	102	63.8%	54	77.1%
Yes	71	30.9%	21	17.5%	50	45.5%	57	35.6%	14	20.0%
Total	230	100.0%	120	100.0%	110	100.0%	160	100.0%	70	100.0%

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market-rate		Subsidized		Smoke free		Smoking allowed	
Do you allow people, including yourself, to smoke tobacco products in your apartment?	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No response	3	1.3%	2	1.7%	1	0.9%	2	1.3%	1	1.4%
Smoking IS allowed anywhere in my apartment	4	1.7%	0	0.0%	4	3.6%	0	0.0%	4	5.7%
Smoking IS allowed in some places in my apartment	9	3.9%	5	4.2%	4	3.6%	1	0.6%	8	11.4%
Smoking is NOT allowed anywhere inside my apartment	214	93.0%	113	94.2%	101	91.8%	157	98.1%	57	81.4%
Total	230	100.0%	120	100.0%	110	100.0%	160	100.0%	70	100.0%

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market-rate		Subsidized		Smoke free		Smoking allowed	
Do you allow people, including yourself, to vape e-cigarettes in your apartment?	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No response	6	2.6%	4	3.3%	2	1.8%	5	3.1%	1	1.4%
Vaping IS allowed anywhere in my apartment	8	3.5%	4	3.3%	4	3.6%	2	1.3%	6	8.6%
Vaping IS allowed in some places in my apartment	8	3.5%	4	3.3%	4	3.6%	3	1.9%	5	7.1%
Vaping is NOT allowed anywhere inside my apartment	208	90.4%	108	90.0%	100	90.9%	150	93.8%	58	82.9%
Total	230	100.0%	120	100.0%	110	100.0%	160	100.0%	70	100.0%

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market-rate		Subsidized		Smoke free		Smoking allowed	
How often do you smell tobacco smoke coming into your apartment from another unit or outside?	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No response	3	1.3%	2	1.7%	1	0.9%	2	1.3%	1	1.4%
Everyday	28	12.2%	12	10.0%	16	14.5%	14	8.8%	14	20.0%
A few times a week	39	17.0%	23	19.2%	16	14.5%	28	17.5%	11	15.7%
A few times a month	28	12.2%	12	10.0%	16	14.5%	18	11.3%	10	14.3%
A few times a year	26	11.3%	16	13.3%	10	9.1%	15	9.4%	11	15.7%
Never	106	46.1%	55	45.8%	51	46.4%	83	51.9%	23	32.9%
Total	230	100.0%	120	100.0%	110	100.0%	160	100.0%	70	100.0%

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market-rate		Subsidized		Smoke free		Smoking allowed	
How often do you smell marijuana smoke coming into your apartment from another unit or outside?	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No response	4	1.7%	2	1.7%	2	1.8%	3	1.9%	1	1.4%
Everyday	16	7.0%	8	6.7%	8	7.3%	8	5.0%	8	11.4%
A few times a week	24	10.4%	17	14.2%	7	6.4%	15	9.4%	9	12.9%
A few times a month	24	10.4%	13	10.8%	11	10.0%	18	11.3%	6	8.6%
A few times a year	22	9.6%	15	12.5%	7	6.4%	10	6.3%	12	17.1%
Never	140	60.9%	65	54.2%	75	68.2%	106	66.3%	34	48.6%
Total	230	100.0%	120	100.0%	110	100.0%	160	100.0%	70	100.0%

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market-rate		Subsidized		Smoke free		Smoking allowed	
Have you reported tobacco (or other) smoke in your apartment to your property manager?	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No response	2	0.9%	1	0.8%	1	0.9%	1	0.6%	1	1.4%
Does not apply to me	57	24.8%	33	27.5%	24	21.8%	42	26.3%	15	21.4%
No	126	54.8%	63	52.5%	63	57.3%	87	54.4%	39	55.7%
Yes	45	19.6%	23	19.2%	22	20.0%	30	18.8%	15	21.4%
Total	230	100.0%	120	100.0%	110	100.0%	160	100.0%	70	100.0%

If you have not reported tobacco (or other) smoke in your apartment to your property manager, why not?	Common Responses									
	The smoke is coming from outside the building									
	Forgetfulness/laziness									
	Don't care/doesn't bother me									
	Not wanting to complain									
	Not knowing where the smoke is coming from									
	Not wanting to get others in trouble or create problems with neighbors									
	Smoking is allowed in the building									

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market-rate		Subsidized		Smoke free		Smoking allowed	
Do you believe you, or anyone in your household, has experienced any health problems related to tobacco smoke entering your apartment?	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No response	8	3.5%	4	3.3%	4	3.6%	6	3.8%	2	2.9%
No	203	88.3%	104	86.7%	99	90.0%	139	86.9%	64	91.4%
Yes	19	8.3%	12	10.0%	7	6.4%	15	9.4%	4	5.7%
Total	230	100.0%	120	100.0%	110	100.0%	160	100.0%	70	100.0%

If you or anyone in your household have experienced any health problems related to tobacco smoke entering your apartment, what were they?	Common Responses									
	Asthma									
	Headaches									
	Breathing problems									
	Nausea/vomiting									
	Cough/sore throat/congestion									
	Sneezing/stuffy nose									

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market-Rate		Subsidized		Smoke free		Smoking Allowed	
Have you spent money on the following because of tobacco smoke in or around your apartment? (Check all that apply.)	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Air purifiers, fans, fresheners or odor absorbers	68	29.6%	31	25.8%	37	33.6%	44	27.5%	24	34.3%
Cleaning supplies including dry cleaning	25	10.9%	12	10.0%	13	11.8%	16	10.0%	9	12.9%
Door and window seals	4	1.7%	2	1.7%	2	1.8%	3	1.9%	1	1.4%
Other (describe)	3	1.3%	2	1.7%	1	0.9%	3	1.9%	0	0.0%

Perceptions of Smoke-Free Policies

Based on the rules made by your property manager, in which areas of your apartment building is smoking prohibited? (Check all that apply)	[Smoke free] N	[Smoke free] %	[Smoking allowed] N	[Smoking allowed] %
Individual apartment units	108	67.5%	25	35.7%
Indoor common (shared) areas (e.g. laundry rooms, hallways, stairwells, etc.)	105	65.6%	42	60.0%
Entrance area(s) outside the building	101	63.1%	14	20.0%
Patios, decks, and balconies	89	55.6%	14	20.0%
Outdoor areas except designated smoking areas	75	46.9%	8	11.4%
All outdoor areas	50	31.3%	7	10.0%
Don't know/not sure	27	16.9%	18	25.7%
My building has no rules about smoking	5	3.1%	1	1.4%

			Building subsidized or market-rate			
			Market Rate		Subsidized	
[Smoke Free Only] How does your manager enforce the smoke-free (no-smoking) policy? (Check all that apply.)	N	%	N	%	N	%
Don't know	84	52.5%	43	58.1%	41	47.7%
Written warning	55	34.4%	20	27.0%	35	40.7%
Verbal warning	33	20.6%	10	13.5%	23	26.7%
Eviction	24	15.0%	6	8.1%	18	20.9%
My manager doesn't enforce the policy	14	8.8%	7	9.5%	7	8.1%
Fine	10	6.3%	3	4.1%	4	4.7%
Other	7	4.4%	8	10.8%	2	2.3%

			Building subsidized or market-rate			
			Market-rate		Subsidized	
[Smoke Free Only] Which of the following describes how frequently your manager follows up with smoking violations or complaints?	N	%	N	%	N	%
No response	9	5.6%	4	5.4%	5	5.8%
Always	28	17.5%	8	10.8%	20	23.3%
Most of the time	8	5.0%	4	5.4%	4	4.7%
Some of the time	6	3.8%	2	2.7%	4	4.7%
Never	7	4.4%	5	6.8%	2	2.3%
Don't know/not sure	102	63.8%	51	68.9%	51	59.3%
Total	160	100.0%	74	100.0%	86	100.0%

			Building subsidized or market-rate			
			Market-rate		Subsidized	
[Smoking Allowed Only] How much would you support a smoke-free (no-smoking) policy that prohibits smoking in all individual apartment units within your building?	N	%	N	%	N	%
Do NOT support	19	27.1%	11	23.9%	8	33.3%
Slightly support	5	7.1%	3	6.5%	2	8.3%
Somewhat support	8	11.4%	5	10.9%	3	12.5%
Strongly support	38	54.3%	27	58.7%	11	45.8%
Total	70	100.0%	46	100.0%	24	100.0%

Smoking Behavior

			Building subsidized or market-rate			
			Market Rate		Subsidized	
[Smoke Free Only] Have you or anyone living in your apartment changed smoking behaviors since the building went smoke free? Check all that apply.	N	%	N	%	N	%
No one living in my apartment smokes (or vapes)	128	80.0%	60	81.1%	68	79.1%
Yes, cut back on smoking	13	8.1%	6	8.1%	6	7.0%
No, no changes in current smoking behavior	12	7.5%	5	6.8%	8	9.3%
Yes, quit smoking	6	3.8%	2	2.7%	3	3.5%
Yes, tried to quit smoking	5	3.1%	2	2.7%	0	0.0%
Yes, quick smoking cigarettes and switched to vaping	2	1.3%	1	1.4%	5	5.8%

			Building subsidized or market-rate			
			Market Rate		Subsidized	
[Smoke free Only] Have you or anyone living in your apartment changed vaping behaviors since the building went smoke free? Check all that apply.	N	%	N	%	N	%
No one living in my apartment vapes	142	88.8%	67	90.5%	75	87.2%
No, no changes in current vaping/smoking behavior	11	6.9%	5	6.8%	6	7.0%
Yes, quit vaping	1	0.6%	1	1.4%	0	0.0%
Yes, tried to quit vaping	1	0.6%	0	0.0%	1	1.2%

Opinions about Citywide Smoke-Free Housing Incentives and Ordinances

Support for Disclosure Ordinance

(by building type, tobacco use, and age of residents)

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market-rate		Subsidized		Smoke free		Smoking allowed	
Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring building owners to disclose what the smoking policy is for the building prior to moving in?	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No response	5	2.20%	3	2.5%	2	1.8%	5	3.1%	0	0.0%
No	16	7.00%	9	7.5%	7	6.4%	6	3.8%	10	14.3%
Yes	209	90.90%	108	90.0%	101	91.8%	149	93.1%	60	85.7%
Total	230	100.00%	120	100.0%	110	100.0%	160	100.0%	70	100.0%

			Tobacco use in the last 30 days					
			No Answer		No		Yes	
Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring building owners to disclose what the smoking policy is for the building prior to moving in?	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No response	5	2.20%	2	12.5%	2	1.1%	1	2.8%
No	16	7.00%	1	6.3%	10	5.6%	5	13.9%
Yes	209	90.90%	13	81.3%	166	93.3%	30	83.3%
Total	230	100.00%	16	100.0%	178	100.0%	36	100.0%

			Are there children under the age of 18 living in your apartment?				Are there adults over 65 (including yourself if applicable) living in your apartment?					
			No		Yes		No Answer		No		Yes	
Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring building owners to disclose what the smoking policy is for the building prior to moving in?	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No response	5	2.20%	5	2.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	1.9%	2	2.8%
No	16	7.00%	14	7.3%	2	5.4%	1	33.3%	8	5.1%	7	9.9%
Yes	209	90.90%	174	90.2%	35	94.6%	2	66.7%	145	92.9%	62	87.3%
Total	230	100.00%	193	100.0%	37	100.0%	3	100.0%	156	100.0%	71	100.0%

Why or why not would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring building owners to disclose what the smoking policy is for the building prior to moving in?	Common Responses in Support	Common Responses Not in Support
	Allows renters to make educated decisions about their family health	Shouldn't be the owner's responsibility
	Ensures renter awareness of building rules and policies	Concern for individual rights
	Promotes health and safety	It is unnecessary/smoking is legal

Support for Smoke-Free Housing Ordinance

(by building type, tobacco use, and age of residents)

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market-rate		Subsidized		Smoke free		Smoking allowed	
Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring apartment buildings to be smoke free? (e.g. not allow smoking anywhere inside the building)	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No response	12	5.20%	5	4.2%	7	6.4%	10	6.3%	2	2.9%
No	45	19.60%	25	20.8%	20	18.2%	21	13.1%	24	34.3%
Yes	173	75.20%	90	75.0%	83	75.5%	129	80.6%	44	62.9%
Total	230	100.00%	120	100.0%	110	100.0%	160	100.0%	70	100.0%

			Tobacco use in the last 30 days					
			No Answer		No		Yes	
Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring apartment buildings to be smoke free? (e.g. not allow smoking anywhere inside the building)	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No response	12	5.20%	4	25.0%	4	2.2%	4	11.1%
No	45	19.60%	0	0.0%	27	15.2%	18	50.0%
Yes	173	75.20%	12	75.0%	147	82.6%	14	38.9%
Total	230	100.00%	16	100.0%	178	100.0%	36	100.0%

			Are there children under the age of 18 living in your apartment?				Are there adults over 65 (including yourself if applicable) living in your apartment?					
			No		Yes				No		Yes	
Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring apartment buildings to be smoke free? (e.g. not allow smoking anywhere inside the building)	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No response	12	5.20%	11	5.7%	1	2.7%	0	0.0%	8	5.1%	4	5.6%
No	45	19.60%	41	21.2%	4	10.8%	1	33.3%	33	21.2%	11	15.5%
Yes	173	75.20%	141	73.1%	32	86.5%	2	66.7%	115	73.7%	56	78.9%
Total	230	100.00%	193	100.0%	37	100.0%	3	100.0%	156	100.0%	71	100.0%

Why or why not would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring apartment buildings to be smoke free?	Common Responses in Support	Common Responses Not in Support
	Protects everyone, especially children, from secondhand smoke	It should be the property owners or residents' decision
	Reduces odor	It's too cold to smoke outside
	Helps people quit tobacco use	Concern for individual rights and personal choice
	Helps prevent fires	Could be used against renters

Property Manager Survey Results

Property Demographics

Does your building/property participate in a voucher/low-income housing program?	%	N
Yes	67%	4
No	33%	2

Respondents listed a variety of programs that subsidize their properties including Section-8, Public Housing, Group Residential Housing, and Low Income Housing Tax Credits.

In your estimation, what percentage of your rental units have residents who smoke living in them?	%	N
25% or less	67%	4
26%-50%	0%	0
51%-75%	0%	0
More than 75%	0%	0
Don't know	33%	2

Approximately what percentage of your rental units have families with children living in them?	%	N
25% or less	33.3%	2
26%-50%	33.3%	2
51%-75%	33.3%	2
More than 75%	0%	0
Don't know	0%	0

Apartment Maintenance

How much more does it cost you to turnover (cleaning and maintenance) an apartment that has been smoked in compared to one that has not?	%	N
Less than \$300	16.7%	1
Between \$301 and \$500	50.0%	3
Between \$501 and \$1,000	16.7%	1
Over \$1,000	16.7%	1

How does turnover cleaning and maintenance of an apartment that has been smoked in compare to a smoke-free apartment? (For example, extra cleaning, painting, replacement of fixtures, etc.)	Responses
	Extra priming and painting
	Replacing carpet and carpet pad
	Extra cleaning
	Repair of burnt areas
	Replace fixtures
	Ozone machine

Health of Employees

Has your health been negatively impacted by secondhand smoke on the property?	%	N
Yes	0%	0
No	100%	6

Has your co-workers' health been negatively impacted by secondhand smoke on the property?	%	N
Yes	0%	0
No	100%	6

Renter Preferences

How often do you get complaints from residents about secondhand smoke?	%	N
Never	0%	0
Sometimes	83.3%	5
Frequently	16.7%	1

How often do you get a request from a potential renter for a smoke-free unit?	%	N
Never	50%	3
Sometimes	50%	3
Frequently	0%	0

Smoke-Free Readiness

Do you prohibit the smoking of cigarettes, cigars, e-cigarettes, or other tobacco products in your buildings/properties? Check all that apply.	N
Common areas	5
Building entrances	4
Individual apartments	2
Patios/decks	2
Entire grounds	2

If you manage a property WITHOUT a smoke-free policy, please indicate what concerns you have about restricting smoking in your units and/or building(s)?	N
Higher vacancy rate	0
Increased turnover	0
Decrease in market size of potential renters	0
Increase in staff time for enforcement	3
Legal issues	0
Resident complaints	2
I have no concerns	0
I am not interested in adopting a smoke-free policy	1
Too many other on-site issues to deal with (violence, substance abuse, etc)	2
My building already has a smoke-free policy	4

Who makes policy decisions for your building/property?	Responses
	Management company
	Property manager
	Building owners
	Board of directors
	Staff

How interested are you in adopting a smoke-free policy for your building?	%	N
Very interested	0%	0
Somewhat interested	16.7%	1
Not interested	16.7%	1
I don't make policy decisions	16.7%	1
My building already has a smoke-free policy	50%	3

What additional support/resources do you need to consider adopting a smoke-free policy in your building?	N
Educational materials or presentation for residents	0
Conduct training session for building/property staff	0
My building already has a smoke-free policy	4
None	1
Other: enforcement support	1

Support for Citywide Smoke-Free Housing Incentives and Ordinances

Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring building owners to disclose what the smoking policy is for the building prior to moving in?	%	N
Yes	100%	6
No	0%	0

Why or why not would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring building owners to disclose what the smoking policy is for the building prior to moving in?	Common Responses in Support	Common Responses Not in Support
	Important and informative for renters to know	
	Would improve renter satisfaction	

Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring apartment buildings to be smoke free? (e.g. not allow smoking anywhere inside the building)	%	N
Yes	50%	3
No	50%	3

Why or why not would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring apartment buildings to be smoke free?	Common Responses in Support	Common Responses Not in Support
	Poses health risks to residents	Should be management's choice
	Increases risk of fire	Concern for smokers and housing stability
	Creates property damage	Perceived difficulty of enforcement
	Lower insurance rates	Creates tension amongst neighbors
	Concern for children and elderly	Perceived overreach

Which of these citywide policies that offer building owners incentives to adopt a smoke-free policy would you support?	N
Discounted rental licensing fees for properties that are smoke free	6
Special recognition from the city for properties that are smoke free	5
Neither	1

Why or why not would you support these citywide policies that offer building owners incentives to adopt a smoke-free policy?	Common Responses in Support	Common Responses Not in Support
Discounted rental licensing fees for properties that are smoke free	Keeps costs down	
Special recognition from the city for properties that are smoke free	Attracts potential renters, distinguishes property	
Neither		

Discussion

Limitations

The overall response rate for the resident survey was 27.6%. It is possible that some groups were less likely to respond; for example, people without strong opinions about smoke-free housing or people who were not comfortable criticizing their property owner or manager. The response rate could also be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic if concerns about disease spread kept people from returning their survey to the manager or due to limited staff capacity to promote and collect the surveys. Due to the somewhat low response rate, this survey may not be perfectly representative of the larger West Saint Paul population of renters. Certain groups may be overrepresented in this sample, including people over the age of 65 and English-speaking people.

Resident Exposure to Secondhand Smoke

Given that 53% of respondents reported exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke in their apartment and 37% reported exposure to secondhand marijuana smoke in their apartment, secondhand smoke is creating a health risk for West St. Paul renters. In smoke-free buildings, respondents reported exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke at 47% (compared to 65.7% in smoking-allowed buildings). Property managers also indicated receiving occasional complaints from residents about secondhand smoke. This demonstrates both a need for new smoke-free policies, as well as improved compliance and effective enforcement of current policies.

"I am severely allergic when I smell cigarette smoke. I get headaches, stuffy nose, can't breathe." - Resident

Protecting Vulnerable Residents

Children and older adults are more vulnerable to the negative health impacts of secondhand smoke. In this survey almost half (47%) of respondents indicated that a child and/or a person over the age of 65 lives in their home. Given the rates of exposure discussed previously, this shows that vulnerable residents (children and older adults) living in West St. Paul apartments are not adequately protected.

“My grandson has asthma and had two asthma attacks - he had to go to ER [because of secondhand smoke exposure].” - Resident

Reducing Health Disparities

Overall, 40% of respondents identified as non-white, however, the percentage of non-white respondents was slightly greater (43%) in smoking-allowed buildings. Creating smoke-free environments in these buildings would help to promote health equity and address health disparities related to secondhand smoke exposure.

Resident Perceptions of Smoke-Free Policies

Understanding of the Smoke-Free Rules at the Building

Many respondents demonstrated confusion when asked to identify if, and where smoking was prohibited at their building. For example, 37.5% of respondents in smoking-allowed buildings reported that smoking was prohibited in individual apartment units. This may indicate that respondents are misinformed about, or may not remember, their building’s policy. This likely demonstrates a need for improved communication from management to residents about the details of the building smoking policy.

Support for Smoke-Free Policy Adoption

In buildings where smoking is currently allowed, a majority (66%) of respondents strongly or somewhat support a smoke-free policy for their building. This shows that most respondents who currently live in buildings where smoking is allowed would like their property owner/manager to adopt a smoke-free policy. Among the many other benefits of going smoke free, residents’ desire for a smoke-free environment is a very important reason for property owners/managers to consider adopting a policy.

“Because it can affect children, pregnant women or anyone who does not smoke.” [translated] - Resident

"I had to move from my last apartment because of a neighbor smoking." - Resident

Support for Citywide Smoke-Free Housing Incentives and Ordinances

Disclosure

Across the board there was very strong support from both residents (91%) and property owners/managers for a citywide ordinance requiring the disclosure of the building's smoking policy (whether smoking is allowed or prohibited) to residents prior to moving in. This was supported both by respondents from smoke-free (93%) and smoking-allowed buildings (86%). Disclosure was also strongly supported among respondents who identified as tobacco users (83%). All of the property managers surveyed (n=6) also supported disclosure of a building's smoking policy status.

"There are people who do not smoke and we have sick children who may be affected." [translated] - Resident

"If smoking is allowed in a building, [disclosure] is necessary. If a person desires to smoke they should know if the building allows smoking with clear policy understood." - Resident

Requirement

Renters (75%) and property managers (50% n=3) showed less, but still strong support for a citywide ordinance requiring apartment buildings to be smoke free. There was a difference in support in smoke-free buildings (81%) versus smoking-allowed buildings (63%), although most respondents from both types of buildings showed support. Over a third (39%) of respondents who identified as tobacco users were supportive of such a requirement.

“No smoking is good for the community.” - Resident

“Don't want to smell it or breathe it in; lung cancer has affected my family.” - Resident

“To avoid fires, and provide residents' peace of mind.” [translated] - Resident

“With my own experience not being able to smoke in my apartment helped me quit.” - Resident

Incentives (Property Managers Only)

Most of the property managers surveyed showed support for citywide incentives to adopt smoke-free policies. All the property managers (n=6) supported financial incentives like discounted rental license fees and most (n=5) supported incentives in the form of special recognition from the city.

“Rental licensing fees are required regardless so having the price reduced would be neat and special recognition from the city would look attractive to new potential renters.” - Property Manager

Recommendations

The findings from this survey highlight the importance of smoke-free housing policies to protect all West St. Paul residents from secondhand smoke exposure. They also show strong community support for smoke-free policies at both the property and city level. Based on these findings, we recommend:

Property owners/managers

- Property owners/managers of smoking-allowed buildings implement smoke-free policies covering at least 100% of the indoor areas.
- All property owners/managers offer cessation resources to residents interested in reducing or stopping tobacco use.
- All property owners/managers utilize free resources and assistance from Dakota County Public Health Department and Live Smoke Free to implement and improve compliance with smoke-free policies.

City staff and leadership

- Pass a smoke-free housing resolution or declaration to signal the City's support for smoke-free housing policies.
- Incentivize smoke-free policy adoption through the rental licensing program.
- Require property owners to disclose the building's smoking policy to prospective renters.
- Require all new multi-unit housing construction in the city to have a smoke-free policy.
- Require multi-unit housing in the city to have a smoke-free policy.
- Utilize Dakota County Public Health and Live Smoke Free staff for free technical assistance and support.

Appendix

Appendix I – Resident Cover Letter

Dear Resident,

Dakota County Public Health Department (DCPH) and Live Smoke Free (LSF) are conducting a resident survey in partnership with the City of West St. Paul, that asks questions of adults who live in apartment buildings in the city. We are interested in learning about smoking in apartments and what you think about secondhand smoke and smoke-free policies.

As a thank you for your time, you will receive a \$10 Target gift card for completing the survey.

The survey should be completed by the head of household, and only one survey should be completed for each household.

- Answering the questions on the survey will take about 5-7 minutes.
- Your answers are important, but it is not required that you complete the survey.
- Completion of the survey will not affect your ability to live in your apartment.
- Your answers will be kept private, and will be combined with the answers from many other people taking the survey.
- No one will know which answers are yours.
- A summary of results will be shared with your property manager, but your manager will not see specifically how you answered the questions.

Please follow the instructions on the yellow slip provided in this packet to return the survey and get your \$10 gift card.

More information about this survey is also printed on the back of this letter. If you have any questions, please call: Jackie at 651-646-3005 or email jackie@ansrmn.org.

Sincerely,



Jennie Mainz
Health Promotion Specialist
Dakota County Public Health Department
Email: Jennie.Meinz@co.dakota.mn.us
Phone: 651-554-6134



Jackie Siewert
Assistant Program Director
Live Smoke Free program
Association for Nonsmokers – Minnesota
Email: jackie@ansrmn.org
Phone: 651-646-3005



Appendix II – Resident FAQ

Smoke-Free Housing Survey Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Dakota County Public Health Department (DCPH)?

Dakota County Public Health provides programs and services that help improve the health of all Dakota County residents. Staff work with partners in health care, non-profits, schools, and the community to prevent disease, promote wellness, and protect health for individuals, children and families.

Who is Live Smoke Free (LSF)?

Live Smoke Free is a local non-profit program that assists property managers, residents, and homeowners enjoy cleaner, safer air where they live and work. Live Smoke Free works with Dakota County Public Health to promote smoke-free housing throughout the county.

Why did I receive a survey?

DCPH and LSF are asking residents of apartment buildings to answer survey questions about smoking in apartments. The survey is sent to every apartment unit in your building. Many apartment buildings in West St. Paul are being asked to participate in this survey.

Who should answer the questions?

We ask that the head of household fill out the survey. This person should:

- Be 18 or older, and
- Live in your apartment, and
- Be the person who makes decision for your family.

How is the data collected going to be used?

The data is going to be used by the County and the City for educational purposes and to help inform future County and City public health efforts.

If I answer the questions, will that information be kept private?

Yes, your answers will be kept private. We do not ask you to give your name. Your answers will be combined with the answers from many other people. No one will know which answers are yours.

Will my property manager see my answers?

Your answers will be combined with all of the responses from your building. Your property manager will be given a summary of the response but they will not be able to identify your responses.

Why do I have to give my address on the yellow slip?

The yellow slip only needs to be filled out if you want the \$10 gift card. The information from this slip will NOT be linked to the survey that you completed. We will need your apartment number and address information for gift card distribution.

Appendix III – Gift Card Instructions

Smoke-Free Housing Resident Survey

How to return the survey and get your \$10 gift card:

Thank you for completing this survey. We value your input. We are offering one \$10 Target gift card as a thank you for your time. To receive the gift card, please follow these steps:

1. Put the completed survey in the envelope provided.
2. Complete this slip.
3. Bring the envelope and this yellow slip to the main office.
4. Give the envelope and slip to your manager to receive your gift card.

The information from this slip will NOT be linked to the survey you completed. We will only use this slip to track gift card distribution. Please be aware that this gift card is counted as income.

Please print clearly:

Name of your apartment building: _____

Apartment # _____

Street Address: _____

City _____

State: _____

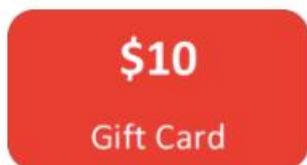
Zip Code: _____

Thank You for your participation.

Appendix IV – Reminder Flyer



**Don't forget to fill
out your survey
and receive a
\$10.00 gift
card!**



*Surveys must be completed and returned by
[Day, Month]!*

Appendix V – Resident Survey

Resident Survey

[Building Name]

The following questions are to be completed by one adult or head of household per apartment. Individual responses will be kept confidential and will not be shared with the property management staff or property owner. Your response will not affect your rental rates nor will you be evicted from your apartment based on your survey responses.

For purposes of this survey, the word “tobacco” does *not* include the sacred and traditional use of tobacco by indigenous people.

The Apartment That You Live In:

1. In total, how long have you lived in your current apartment building?
☐ Less than 1 year ☐ 1-5 years ☐ 6-10 years
☐ More than 10 years
2. Are there children under the age of 18 living in your apartment?
☐ No ☐ Yes
3. Are there adults over 65 (including yourself if applicable) living in your apartment?
☐ No ☐ Yes

Smoking/Vaping Rules Inside Your Apartment:

4. Do you allow people, including yourself, to smoke tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, water or regular pipes, hookahs and bidis) in your apartment (not including decks, porches, patios, or garages)?
☐ Smoking is NOT allowed anywhere inside my apartment
☐ Smoking IS allowed anywhere inside my apartment
☐ Smoking IS allowed in some places inside my apartment
5. Do you allow people, including yourself, to vape (eg. e-cigarettes, e-hookahs, etc.) in your apartment (not including decks, porches, patios, or garages)?
☐ Vaping is NOT allowed anywhere inside my apartment
☐ Vaping IS allowed anywhere inside my apartment
☐ Vaping IS allowed in some places inside my apartment

Your Exposure to Secondhand Tobacco Smoke:

6. How often do you smell tobacco smoke coming into your apartment from another unit or outside?
- ☐ Every day ☐ A few times a week ☐ A few times a month
☐ A few times a year ☐ Never
7. How often do you smell marijuana smoke coming into your apartment from another unit or outside?
- ☐ Every day ☐ A few times a week ☐ A few times a month
☐ A few times a year ☐ Never
8. Have you reported tobacco (or other) smoke in your apartment to your property manager?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Does not apply to me
- If no, why not: _____
9. Do you believe you, or anyone in your household, has experienced any health problems related to tobacco smoke entering your apartment?
- ☐ Yes – if yes,
a. What were the health problems: _____
- ☐ No
10. Have you spent money on the following because of tobacco smoke in or around your apartment? (Check all that apply.)
- ☐ Cleaning supplies including dry cleaning
☐ Air purifiers, fans, fresheners or odor absorbers
☐ Door and window seals
☐ Other (describe): _____

Smoking Rules Made by your Property Manager/Management Company:

11. Based on the rules **made by your property manager**, in which areas of your apartment building is smoking prohibited? (Check all that apply.)
- ☐ Indoor common (shared) areas (e.g. laundry rooms, hallways, stairwells, etc.)
☐ Individual apartment units
☐ Patios, decks, and balconies
☐ Entrance area(s) outside the building
☐ Outdoor areas except designated smoking areas
☐ All outdoor areas
☐ My building has no rules about smoking
☐ Don't know/not sure

12. How does your manager enforce the smoke-free (no-smoking) policy? (Check all that apply.)
[Smoke-Free Only]

- ☐ Verbal warning
- ☐ Written warning
- ☐ Fine
- ☐ Eviction
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ My manager doesn't enforce the policy
- ☐ Other: _____

13. Which of the following describes how frequently your manager follows up with smoking violations or complaints? [Smoke-Free Only]

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Most of the time
- ☐ Some of the time
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Don't know/not sure

Your Experience With The Smoke-Free Policy:

14. Have you or anyone living in your apartment changed smoking behaviors since the building went smoke free? Check all that apply. [Smoke-Free Only]

- ☐ Yes, quit smoking
- ☐ Yes, tried to quit smoking
- ☐ Yes, cut back on smoking
- ☐ Yes, quit smoking cigarettes and switched to vaping
- ☐ No, no changes in current smoking behavior
- ☐ No one living in my apartment smokes or vapes

15. Have you or anyone living in your apartment changed vaping behaviors since the building went smoke free? Check all that apply. [Smoke-Free Only]

- ☐ Yes, quit vaping
- ☐ Yes, tried to quit vaping
- ☐ Yes, cut back on vaping
- ☐ No, no changes in current vaping behavior
- ☐ No one living in my apartment vapes

Your Thoughts About Smoke-Free Apartments:

16. How much would you support a smoke-free (no-smoking) policy that prohibits smoking in all individual apartment units within your building? [Smoking-Allowed Only]

- ☐ Strongly support
- ☐ Somewhat support
- ☐ Slightly support
- ☐ Do NOT support

17. Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring building owners to disclose what the smoking policy is for the building prior to moving in?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Why or why not?

18. Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring apartment buildings to be smoke free? (e.g. not allow smoking anywhere inside the building)

☐ Yes

☐ No

Why or why not?

Questions about you:

19. What is your age?

☐ 18-25

☐ 26-55

☐ 56-65

☐ Over 65

20. Which of the following do you consider yourself? (Check all that apply.)

☐ Asian or Asian American

☐ Black or African American

☐ White

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native

☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

☐ Hispanic or Latino

☐ Other: _____

21. What was your household income last year? This was your total income before taxes, or gross income, of all persons in your household combined for last year.

☐ \$23,000 or less

☐ \$23,001-\$39,000

☐ \$39,001-\$55,000

☐ \$55,001-\$79,000

☐ \$79,001-\$100,000

☐ More than \$100,000

22. In the last month, which of the following tobacco products have you used? Check all that apply.

☐ Cigarettes

☐ Cigars

☐ E-cigarettes/vapes

☐ Cigarillos

☐ Water or regular pipes

☐ Hookahs

☐ Bidis

☐ I haven't used any of these products in the last month



Appendix VI – Manager Cover Letter

Dear Property Manager,

Dakota County Public Health Department (DCPH) and Live Smoke Free (LSF) are conducting a survey of property managers and residents, in partnership with the City of West St. Paul, on the topic of smoke-free housing. We are interested in learning about smoking in apartments, and what managers and residents think about secondhand smoke and smoke-free building policies. We value your input, and invite you to participate in this important research in **two ways** (below). * ***As a thank you for your time, you will receive a \$50 Target store gift card for your assistance****

1. Fill out a property manager survey about your thoughts and experiences.

The survey can be completed either online or on paper. It will take about 5-10 minutes of your time. Your answers will be kept private and will be combined with the answers of other West St. Paul property managers taking this survey. A summary of survey responses will be provided to you.

2. Survey your residents about their thoughts and experiences.

The survey is paper-based. It will take about 5-7 minutes of your residents' time and they will receive a \$10 gift card for participating. Their answers will be kept private, however you will receive a summary of survey responses. To participate, you will be asked to:

- A. Distribute a survey packet to each unit in your building
- B. Advertise the survey deadline and drop off location to your residents (LSF will provide you with verbiage and a flyer).
- C. Encourage your residents to return their completed survey and pick up their gift card at the main office.
- D. Distribute gift card for completed survey (one per unit).
- E. Return completed surveys and unused store gift cards to LSF.
- F. Complete the property manager survey

Thank you for your consideration. DCPH and LSF value your partnership! Please direct questions or interest to Jackie at 651-646-3005 or jackie@ansrmn.org.

Sincerely,



Jennie Mainz
Health Promotion Specialist
Dakota County Public Health Department
Email: Jennie.Meinz@co.dakota.mn.us
Phone: 651-554-6134



Jackie Siewert
Assistant Program Director, Live Smoke Free
Association for Nonsmokers – Minnesota
Email: jackie@ansrmn.org
Phone: 651-646-3005

Appendix VII – Manager Survey

Property Manager Survey

Property Demographic:

1. Does your building/property participate in a voucher/low-income housing program?
☐ Yes Please list program _____
☐ No
2. In your estimation, what percentage of your rental units have residents who smoke living in them?
☐ 25% or less ☐ 26% - 50%
☐ 51% - 75% ☐ More than 75%
☐ Don't Know
3. Approximately what percentage of your rental units have families with children living in them?
☐ 25% or less
☐ 26% - 50%
☐ 51% - 75%
☐ More than 75%
☐ Don't know

Apartment Maintenance:

4. How much **more** does it cost you to turnover (cleaning and maintenance) an apartment that has been smoked in compared to one that has not?
☐ Less than \$300 ☐ Between \$301 and \$500
☐ Between \$501 and \$1,000 ☐ Over \$1,000
5. How does turnover cleaning and maintenance of an apartment that has been smoked in compare to a smoke-free apartment? (For example, extra cleaning, painting, replacement of fixtures, etc.)

Health of Employees:

6. Has your health been negatively impacted by secondhand smoke on the property?
☐ Yes, secondhand smoke has affected me in the following way:

☐ No, secondhand smoke has not affected me

7. Has your co-workers' health been negatively impacted by secondhand smoke on the property?

☐ Yes, secondhand smoke has affected my co-workers in the following way:

☐ No, secondhand smoke has not affected my co-workers

Renter Preferences:

8. How often do you get complaints from residents about secondhand smoke?

☐ Never
☐ Sometimes
☐ Frequently

9. How often do you get a request from a potential renter for a smoke-free unit?

☐ Never
☐ Sometimes
☐ Frequently

10. How often do you get a request from a potential renter for a smoking unit?

☐ Never
☐ Sometimes
☐ Frequently

Smoke-Free Readiness:

These questions reference the property at: _____
(Address)

11. Do you prohibit the smoking of cigarettes, cigars, e-cigarettes, or other tobacco products in your buildings/properties?

☐ Yes, please check all that apply:
 ___ Common areas
 ___ Individual apartments
 ___ Patios/Decks
 ___ Apartment entrance
 ___ Entire grounds (apartments and grounds)
☐ No

12. If you manage a property **without** a smoke-free policy, please indicate what concerns you have about restricting smoking in your units and/or building(s)?

Please check all that apply:

- ☐ Higher vacancy rate
- ☐ Increased turnover
- ☐ Decrease in market size of potential renters
- ☐ Increase in staff time for enforcement
- ☐ Legal issues
- ☐ Resident complaints
- ☐ I have no concerns
- ☐ I am not interested in adopting a smoke-free policy
- ☐ Too many other on-site issues to deal with (violence, substance abuse, etc.)
- ☐ My building already has a smoke-free policy
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

13. Who makes policy decisions for your building/property? _____

14. How interested are you in adopting a smoke-free policy for your building?

- ☐ Very interested
- ☐ Somewhat interested
- ☐ Not interested
- ☐ I don't make policy decisions, please contact _____
- ☐ My building already has a smoke-free policy

15. What additional support/resources do you need to consider adopting a smoke-free policy in your building?

- ☐ Educational materials or presentation for residents
- ☐ Conduct training session for building/property staff
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ My building already has a smoke-free policy

16. Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring building owners to disclose what the smoking policy is for the building prior to moving in?

- ☐ No ☐ Yes

Why or why not? _____

17. Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring apartment buildings to be smoke free? (e.g. not allow smoking anywhere inside the building)

- ☐ No ☐ Yes

Why or why not? _____

18. Which of these citywide policies that offer building owners incentives to adopt a smoke-free policy would you support? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Discounted rental licensing fees for properties that are smoke free
- ☐ Special recognition from the city for properties that are smoke free
- ☐ Neither

Why or why not? _____



Appendix VIII – West St. Paul Fact Sheet

Going Smoke Free Matters in West St. Paul

Implementing smoke-free housing policies protects health and is good for business.



Smoking and Secondhand Smoke are Linked to Increased COVID-19 Risk

People who smoke cigarettes now, or who smoked in the past, are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19.¹ Furthermore, although more research is needed, it is possible that secondhand smoke exposure could increase the risk for COVID-19 infection.²



Smoke-Free Housing Policies Protect Lung Health

In Dakota County nearly 1 in 7 deaths are related to smoking commercial tobacco or exposure to secondhand smoke. There is no safe amount of secondhand smoke exposure. The home is the main place many children and adults breathe in secondhand smoke. Renters (37%) are exposed to secondhand smoke at a higher rate than homeowners (19%)^{3,4}



Smoke-Free Housing Policies are Smart for Business

Smoke-free policies reduce maintenance costs for property owners and reduce the risk of smoking related fires. According to the Dakota County Community Development Agency (CDA), a heavily smoke-damaged apartment costs 7 times more than a smoke-free unit to turn over (\$4,011 vs. \$562). Market demand for smoke-free housing is high; nearly 3 out of 4 Minnesota renters prefer smoke-free housing.⁵

Local Smoke-Free Housing Policies

Dakota County

Approximately **21%** of all housing units in Dakota County are in multi-unit buildings.⁶ Approximately **50%** of multi-unit buildings in Dakota County are smoke free.⁷

West St. Paul

An estimated **46%** of multi-unit buildings in West St. Paul are smoke free, falling short of demand (73%).⁵ Dakota County Public Health Department and Live Smoke Free are working to increase the percentage of smoke-free buildings in West St. Paul.

"When I walk into our buildings it doesn't smell like smoke anymore."

– Anna Judge, Director of Property Management for the Dakota County CDA, after the CDA went smoke free in 2018.

Who We Are

Dakota County Public Health Department works in partnership with Live Smoke Free, a nonprofit program of the Association for Nonsmokers – Minnesota (ANSR), to promote smoke-free policies in apartment buildings, condominiums, and other types of housing. This work is supported by the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership of the Minnesota Department of Health.

Our Goals

- Increase smoke-free housing opportunities for West St. Paul residents
- Protect West St. Paul residents from secondhand smoke exposure in multi-unit housing
- Support property owners and managers with implementation and maintenance of smoke-free housing policies

How We Can Help You Advance Smoke-Free Housing in West St. Paul

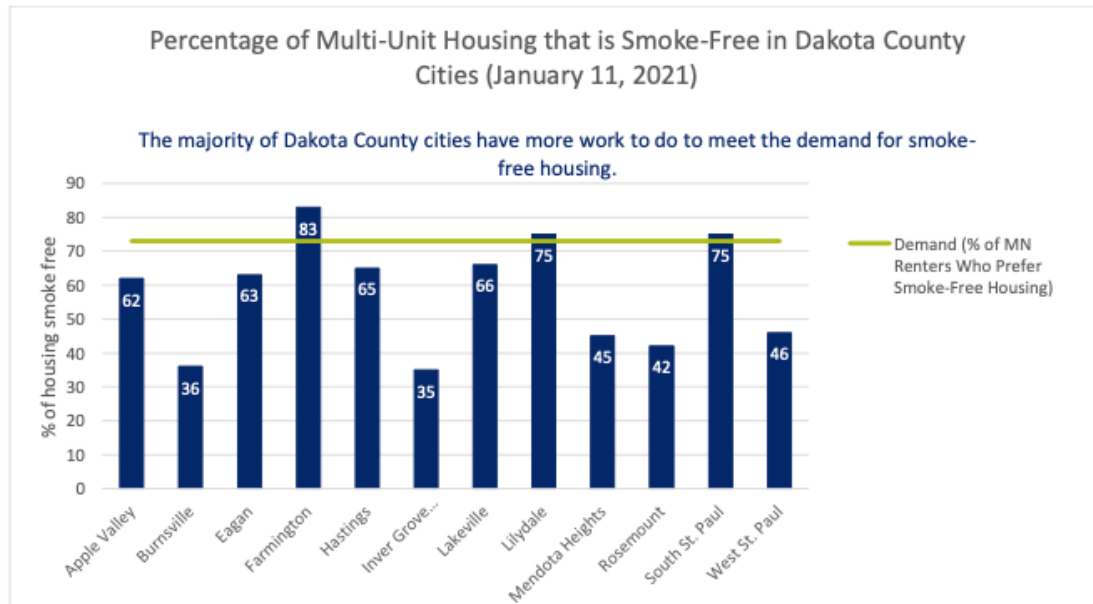
- Gather data about West St. Paul residents' exposure to secondhand smoke and support for smoke-free policies
- Utilize data to identify collaborative strategies to increase smoke-free housing opportunities in West St. Paul
- Provide educational resources and implementation support to residents and property owners/managers

We look forward working with you and sharing resources to help your community.



Chart: Comparison of Smoke-Free Housing Opportunities in Dakota County Cities

This chart compares Dakota County cities based on the percentage of multi-unit housing that is smoke free. This chart is based on internal data gathered by the Live Smoke Free program of the Association for Nonsmokers – Minnesota. Data is not comprehensive and should be viewed only as a best estimate.



Smoking-Related Fires in West St. Paul and South St. Paul

From 2018-2020, South Metro Fire Department responded to 69 fires in West St. Paul and South St. Paul.



¹ <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/tobacco/quitting/index.html>

² American Lung Association and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). Lung Health and COVID-19: Updates with CDC [Webinar].

³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General—Executive Summary. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006.

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Vital signs: disparities in nonsmokers' exposure to secondhand smoke — United States, 1999–2012. MMWR Morbidity and Mortality Wkly Rep. 2015;64 (04):103–108.

⁵ A 2009 survey conducted by ANSR found that nearly 3 out of 4 Minnesota renters prefer smoke-free housing. The 2018 Minnesota Adult Tobacco Survey found that on average, only 14% of Minnesotans smoke, suggesting that preferences for smoke-free environments may have increased since the 2009 survey.

⁶ American Community Survey 2018

⁷ <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ACSDP5Y2018.DP04%20Dakota%20County,%20Minnesota&g=0500000US27037&tid=ACSDP5Y2018.DP04&hidePreview=true>

⁸ Based on internal records from the Association for Nonsmokers – Minnesota

Contact Information

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