

Secondhand Smoke in Apartment Buildings

Results of 2001 and 2009 Minnesota Renter Surveys

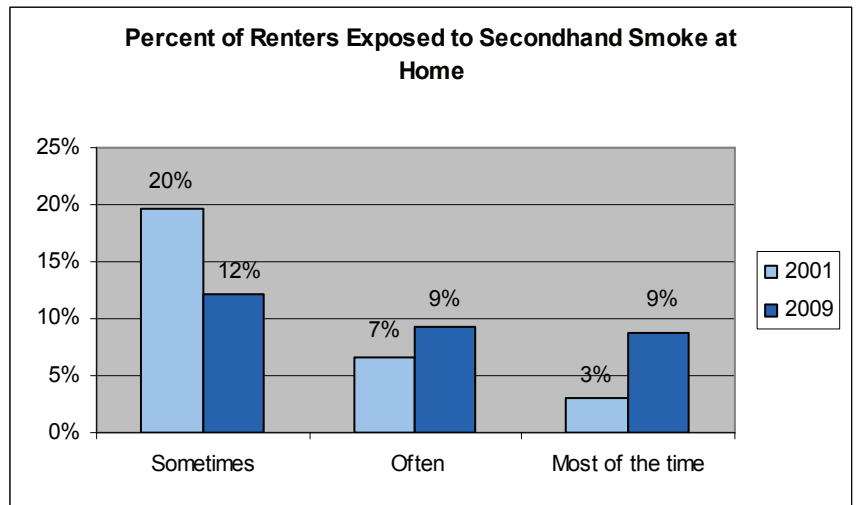
In 2009, Live Smoke Free, a program of the Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota (ANSR), and Wilder Research surveyed a random sample of 406 renters from the Twin Cities seven county metro area to determine:

- How often renters are being exposed to secondhand smoke in their rental housing;
- Level of interest that renters have in smoke-free housing.

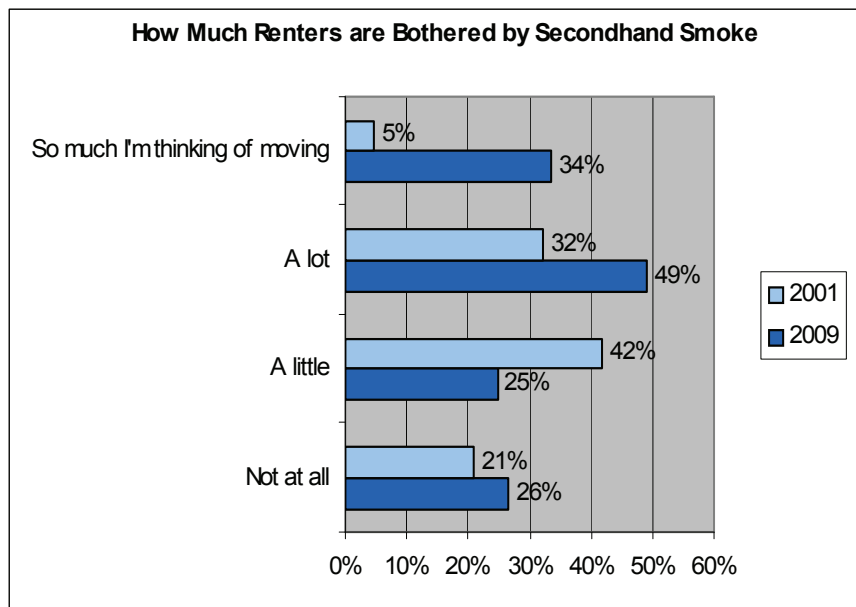
The survey builds on a similar survey conducted in 2001 by the Center for Energy and Environment and ANSR. Results from both surveys demonstrate that renters are being exposed to secondhand smoke in their homes and that there is a growing demand for smoke-free rental housing.

Renters are exposed to secondhand smoke at home

- In both 2001 and 2009, 30% of renters reported being exposed to secondhand smoke at home “sometimes,” “often,” or “most of the time.”
- However, the number of renters reporting frequent exposure at home (often or most of the time) nearly doubled from 2001 (10%) to 2009 (18%).



Many renters consider moving to avoid exposure to secondhand smoke

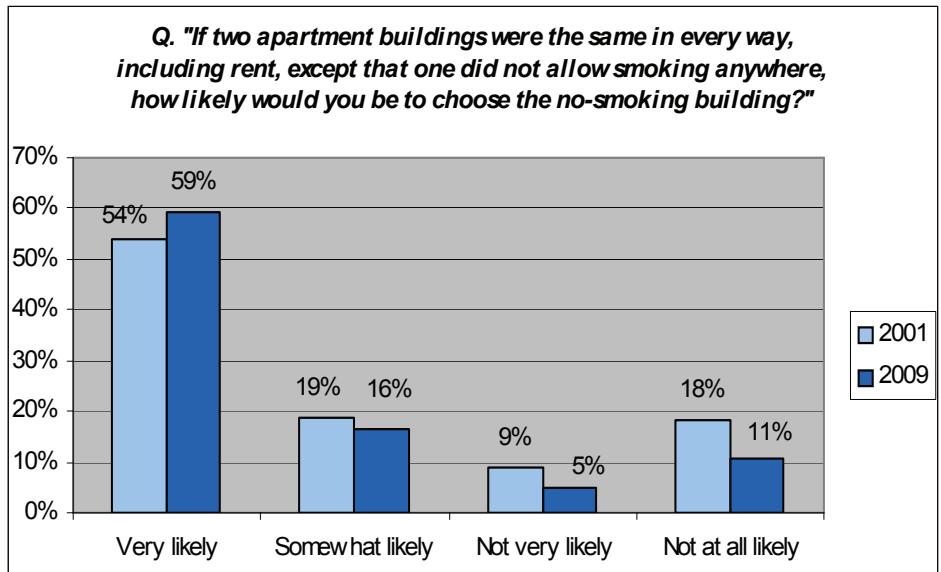


- Overall, in 2009, renters reported being more bothered by the secondhand smoke entering their units than 2001 renters—49% of 2009 renters who had experienced secondhand smoke exposure reported that this bothered them “A lot.”
- The percentage of renters reporting that they had thought about moving because of secondhand smoke increased by nearly 7 times from 2001 (5%) to 2009 (34%). This could be due to growing awareness about the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.



Renters want smoke-free housing

- In 2009, the majority of renters (75%) would be “somewhat likely” or “very likely” to choose a no-smoking building over a building where smoking was allowed if the buildings were the same in every other way.
- When asked how interested they would be in living in a building where all apartment units were smoke free, 53% of the 2009 renters reported being “extremely” or “very” interested.



Many renters are interested in smoke-free outdoor areas

- 43% of renters would be “extremely” or “very” interested in living in a building where smoking is not allowed on **patios, balconies, and decks**.
- 45% of renters would be interested in living in a building where smoking is not allowed in **other outdoor areas, including building entrances**.
- 45% of renters would be interested in living in a building where smoking is not allowed **everywhere in the building and on the property**.



Renters are willing to trade other amenities for smoke-free housing

In order to live in a completely smoke-free apartment building, renters would be willing to:

- 47% — live in a building that didn't have a **pool, playground, or athletic facilities**.
- 43% — **travel 10 minutes farther to parks or lakes**.
- 39% — **walk 3 blocks further to a bus line**.
- 36% — **drive 10 minutes farther to work**.
- 23% — **pay \$25 more each month in rent**.

Takeaway Points

Compared to the 2001 renters, 2009 renters are:

- More bothered by secondhand smoke at home and
- Much more likely to consider moving due to exposure to secondhand smoke at home.

Additionally, in 2009, the majority of renters (75%) would be “somewhat” or “very likely” to choose a no-smoking building over a smoking-allowed building that was the same in every other way. Finally, many 2009 renters reported being interested in smoke-free outdoor areas and being willing to trade other amenities for smoke-free housing.

The 2009 study was conducted by Wilder Research on behalf of the Live Smoke Free Program, a program funded Tobacco-Free Communities grant from the Minnesota Department of Health Office of Tobacco Prevention & Control. Copies of the 2009 report are available at www.mnsmokefreehousing.org. The 2001 study was conducted by the Center for Energy and Environment and was funded in part by ClearWay Minnesota. Copies of the 2001 report are available at www.mncee.org.

