

Commercial Tobacco Use in Multi-unit Housing Developments in Brooklyn Park

Combined Data for **Smoking Not Permitted** Properties

Prepared by: Hennepin County Public Health Assessment Team, 2021



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BACKGROUND

Secondhand smoke, the smoke that comes from a lit commercial tobacco product, contains more than 7,000 chemicals, including lead. Of these chemicals, 70 are known to cause cancer and hundreds are known toxins. Thirdhand smoke is the residue and chemicals left behind on surfaces after secondhand smoke has subsided. Secondhand smoke causes heart disease, lung cancer, sudden infant death syndrome, and asthma. An estimated 58 million Americans remain exposed to secondhand smoke each year and the home is the primary source of secondhand smoke exposure. The 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's Report, "The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke," concluded that there is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke, and the only way to protect people from these dangers is to eliminate the smoke exposure. New evidence shows that secondhand emissions from vaping also contain toxic chemicals and that Minnesotans are not well-protected from the health risks of exposure to these emissions.

Unfortunately, secondhand smoke knows no boundaries and can easily travel from unit to unit within an apartment or condo complex, or from room to room in a single-family home. According to the MN Adult Tobacco Survey most Minnesota adults (86%) are nonsmokers, and the majority of Minnesota households have nonsmoking residents. However, residents in multi-unit buildings are regularly exposed to smoke from adjacent units and almost 20% of Minnesotans who live in multi-housing report smelling smoke somewhere in their home. Smoke-free housing policies protect residents and their homes from the harmful effects of second and thirdhand smoke.

Since 2019 the City of Brooklyn Park and Hennepin County Public Health, with technical support from Live Smoke Free, (LSF) a program of the Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota (ANSR), have partnered to bring awareness to and reduce the harms caused by secondhand smoke in multi-unit housing.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the City of Brooklyn Park, Multi-unit Housing Managers and Brooklyn Park residents for your partnership that made obtaining this data possible:

John Kinara, City of Brooklyn Park

Autumn Ridge - 8516 63rd Ave N, Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

Sarah Vait, Property Manager

Huntington Place – 5805 73rd Ave N. Brooklyn Park, MN 55429

Rory Morales, Property Manager

Fairways Apartments at Edinburgh - 8617 Edinbrook Crossing Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

Pang Khang, Assistant Community Director

METHODOLOGY

In 2019 city, county and ANSR staff began reaching out to select multi-unit properties (both smoke free and smoking allowed) in Brooklyn Park asking to survey residents on the topic of smoke-free housing. The goal was to learn about smoking habits in apartments, resident experience of secondhand smoke and opinions about smoke-free building policies for both where they live and for properties citywide. Six properties agreed to collaborate, 3 with smoke-free policies and 3 without. Once confirmed, survey and resident outreach materials were provided (see appendix for all materials)¹. Residents received \$10 Target gift cards for their participation and property managers received \$50 Target gift cards for their assistance. The following report will share the results and recommendations of the surveys from 3 properties that *have a smoke-free policy* in place. Surveys were distributed to 824 units and 143 were returned.

In addition, Live Smoke Free and Hennepin County staff provide recommendations that are identified through data analysis. These recommendations will be shared and encouraged to be implemented by the City of Brooklyn Park and/or the properties that participated. Implementing the recommendations will further ensure that all residents live in clean, safe, and healthy housing.

KEY FINDINGS

- More than half of respondents (59%) are exposed to secondhand smoke every day, multiple time per week, multiple times per month, or multiple times per year
- 15 respondents cited health problems due to secondhand smoke exposure including asthma, allergies, chronic ear infections, and sinus/chest pain.
- Most respondents (74%) have not used a tobacco product in the past 30 days.
- Eighty-five percent of respondents do not allow tobacco to be used in their apartment.
- Eighty six percent of respondents thought that their building had a smoke-free policy or were not sure.
- The majority (73%) of respondents strongly or somewhat support a smoke-free policy for their building.
- The majority (74%) of respondents strongly or somewhat support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring multi-unit housing to be smoke free.
- Eighty percent of respondents stated that the presence of a smoke-free policy is very important, important, or slightly important when looking for a place to live.

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Resident survey cover letter - Appendix I
Promotion Flyers - Appendix II
Survey & gift card instructions Appendix III
Resident survey - Appendix IV

RECOMMENDATIONS

Our findings highlight the importance of smoke-free policies to help protect all residents, especially youth, Black, Indigenous and Persons of Color (BIPOC) and those with low-income status, from secondhand smoke exposure. They also highlight the need for ongoing policy promotion to support resident understanding and compliance. Findings also suggest strong community support for smoke-free policy adoption at the city level. Based on these findings, we recommend:

For property managers of smoke-free properties:

- Obtain Live Smoke Free's 'Policy and Enforcement' toolkit.
- Promote positive policy promotion like celebrate the smoke-free policy's success with a smoke-free anniversary celebration.
- Send a policy reminder letter to all residents annually and outline enforcement procedures.
- Offer cessation resources to residents interested in quitting.
- Train all staff on the policy details and what counts as a violation.
- Place additional signage throughout the property (wherever smoking is not to occur).
- Utilize Hennepin County Public Health and Live Smoke Free staff for free technical assistance and tools.
- There is only a slight difference (6%) between residents reporting that they feel their building is a "healthy place to live" to those feeling it rates "fair" or "poor" as a "healthy place to live". This is an area for improvement. Properties should survey residents or discuss this at a community meeting to learn more about perceptions on "healthy living" and identify strategies for improvement.

For city staff to consider:

- Passing a "Smoke-Free Housing Appreciation" resolution or declaration.
- If applicable, incentivize smoke-free policy adoption through rental licensing.
- If applicable, establish secondhand smoke as a nuisance. Local city or county ordinance could be amended to include secondhand smoke intrusion into multi-unit residences as a nuisance.
- Require property owners to disclose building smoking policy to prospective renters.
- Require multi-unit residences to be smoke-free.
- Utilize Hennepin County Public Health and Live Smoke Free staff for free technical assistance and support.

RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS

Total respondents: 144

DEMOGRAPHICS

- **Household size:**

Majority of respondents report living within a 1-2 person household.

| | % |
|-----------|-----|
| HH size 1 | 45% |
| HH size 2 | 33% |
| HH size 3 | 11% |
| HH size 4 | 7% |
| HH size 5 | 2% |
| HH size 6 | 2% |

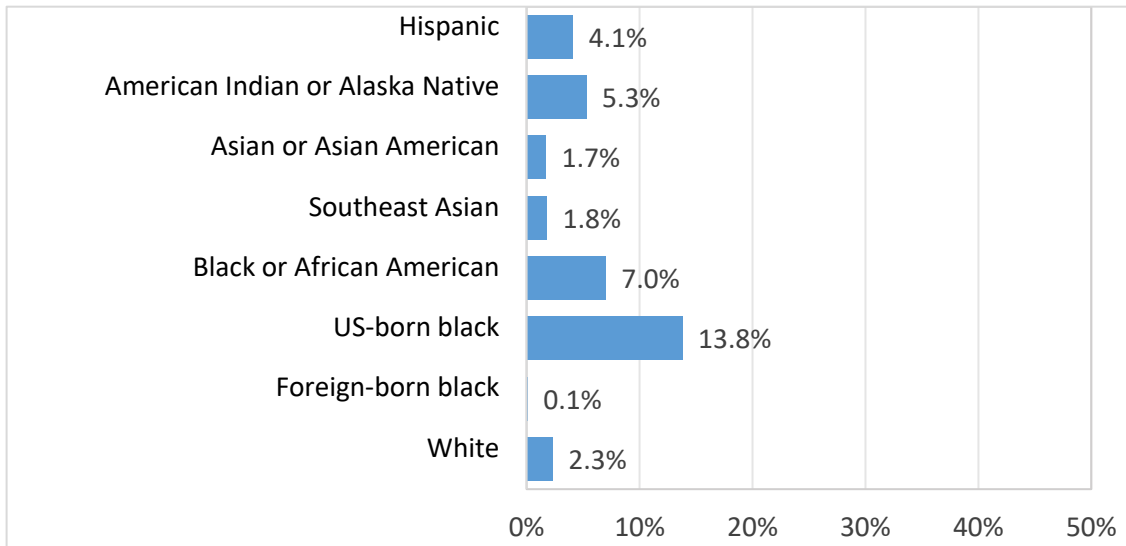
The 2019 median household income in Brooklyn Park for black residents was \$54,011 vs. \$86,214 for white residents. The data from this resident survey further highlights this income disparity - majority of respondents self-identify as Black or African American (60%) and report their 2019 HH income to be in the range of \$23k or less (57%).

- **Selected race/ethnicity:**

- Asian or Asian American: 6%
- Black or African American: 60%
- White: 31%
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 3%
- Hispanic or Latino/a/x: 1%
- Other: 6%

Data from SHAPE 2018² suggest racial/ethnic disparities in secondhand smoke exposure at home among non-smokers in Hennepin County. Data from surveyed residents in Brooklyn Park are consistent with SHAPE findings. Smoke-free policies contribute to reducing health disparities that disproportionately affect Black, Indigenous, Persons of Color (BIPOC) residents. We strongly encourage property managers to consider this when providing healthy homes for all and working to reduce health and race disparities.

² SHAPE 2018: selected findings. Difference in rates across major race and ethnicity categories is statistically significant @ p<0.05. The test doesn't include subgroups i.e. Southeast Asian, US-born black, Foreign-born black. Difference in rates between US-born black and foreign-born blacks is statistically significant @ P,0.05. Race and ethnicity are mutually exclusive. If a respondent said that he/she is Hispanic, and at the same time, indicated one or more race, he /she will be classified as Hispanic only.



- **2019 household income:**
 - \$23,000 or less: 57%
 - \$23,001-\$39,000: 17%
 - \$39,001-\$55,000: 10%
 - \$55,001-\$79,000: 6%
 - \$79,001-\$100,000: 3%
 - More than \$100,000: 2%
 - Blank: 5%

PERCEPTION OF HEALTHY HOME

Half of the respondents feel their home is a “healthy place to live” (50% “very good” and “good” combined). Yet, the other half report that they do not perceive where they live to be a “healthy place to live” (fair/poor/very poor combined). Healthy housing is essential for the reduction of chronic disease and to support good mental health. Smoke-free housing policies ensure that first, second and third-hand smoke are not present in residents’ homes and all are protected from the harms of commercial tobacco. This is an area for improvement. Properties have an opportunity to survey residents or discuss this at a community meeting to learn more about perceptions on “healthy living” and identify strategies for improvement.

Q1. How would you rate your apartment building as a healthy place to live?

| Very good | Good | Fair | Poor | Very Poor | Blank |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| 19% (n=28) | 31% (n=44) | 31% (n=45) | 13% (n=18) | 6% (n=8) | 1% (n=1) |

SMOKING RULES INSIDE APARTMENT

Q2. Which of the following statements best describes the rules made by your landlord about tobacco smoking in your apartment building? Check all that apply:

While most residents' report being aware of the smoke-free policy rules for commercial tobacco and e-cigarettes/vapes there is opportunity for increased awareness and education on the rules and expectations.

| | # of respondents |
|--|------------------|
| Smoking is NOT allowed in any shared areas inside my building | 119 |
| Smoking is NOT allowed inside any individual apartment unit | 90 |
| Smoking is NOT allowed in the entrance area outside the building | 88 |
| Smoking is NOT allowed anywhere outdoors | 25 |
| Smoking IS allowed anywhere on the property | 16 |
| Smoking IS allowed in individual apartments but not in shared areas like laundry rooms or hallways | 17 |
| Smoking IS allowed in some outdoor areas | 45 |
| Don't know/not sure | 14 |

Q3. Which of the following statements best describes the rules made by your landlord about e-cigarettes, vapes in your apartment building? Check all that apply:

| | # of respondents |
|--|------------------|
| E-cigarettes/vapes are NOT allowed in any shared areas inside my building | 75 |
| E-cigarettes/vapes are NOT allowed inside any individual apartment unit | 54 |
| E-cigarettes/vapes are NOT allowed in the entrance area outside the building | 49 |
| E-cigarettes/vapes are NOT allowed anywhere outdoors | 20 |
| E-cigarettes/vapes ARE allowed anywhere on the property | 10 |
| E-cigarettes/vapes ARE allowed in individual apartments but not in shared areas like laundry rooms or hallways | 17 |
| E-cigarettes/vapes ARE allowed in some outdoor areas | 26 |
| Don't know/not sure | 65 |

Q4. Do you allow people, including yourself, to smoke tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, water or regular pipes, hookahs and bidis) in/around your apartment?

| | # of respondents | % |
|---|------------------|-----|
| Smoking is NOT allowed anywhere inside my apartment | 123 | 85% |
| Smoking IS allowed anywhere in my apartment | 7 | 5% |
| Smoking IS allowed in some places in my apartment | 8 | 6% |
| Smoking IS allowed on my patio / deck/porch/garage | 2 | 1% |
| Blank | 4 | 3% |

Q5. Do you allow people, including yourself, to smoke e-cigarettes, vapes in/around your apartment?

| | # of respondents | % |
|---|------------------|-----|
| E-cigarettes/vapes are NOT allowed anywhere inside my apartment | 121 | 84% |
| E-cigarettes/vapes ARE allowed anywhere in my apartment | 11 | 8% |
| E-cigarettes/vapes ARE allowed in some places in my apartment | 5 | 4% |
| E-cigarettes/vapes ARE allowed on my patio / deck/porch/garage | 2 | 1% |
| Blank | 5 | 4% |

SMOKING EXPOSURE & BEHAVIOR

Healthy and safe housing needs to be the right of *all* residents. Data shows that the most vulnerable populations to chronic disease are older adults, minorities and low-wealth and resourced residents³. Despite the properties surveyed having smoke-free policies respondents report smelling tobacco smoke within their units. Every day, few times a week and monthly exposure combined rate at 51% which is higher than never at 38%. This implies non-compliance to the smoke-free policy. Enforcement and cessation support can be obtained from Live Smoke Free to ensure smoke-free policies are being adhered to and understood.

Q6. How often do you smell tobacco smoke coming into your apartment from another unit or outside?

| Everyday | A few times a week | A few times a month | A few times a year | Never | Blank |
|------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------|---------|
| 23% (n=33) | 15% (n=22) | 13% (n=18) | 8% (n=11) | 38% (n=55) | 4%(n=5) |

³ <https://www.hennepin.us/your-government/research-data/shape-surveys>

Q6a. Do you believe you, or anyone in your household, has experienced any health problems related to commercial tobacco smoke entering your apartment?

- Yes – n= 15
 - If yes, what smoking related health conditions did you or anyone in your household experience?
 - Child: asthma - 1
 - Child: chronic ear infection - 0
 - Child: frequent respiratory infections – 0
 - Adult: asthma – 11
 - Adult: chronic respiratory infection – 3
 - Adult: heart disease – 1
 - Adult: stroke – 0
 - Other: 6
 - Allergic to smoke, I take allergy pills everyday
 - Attacks (asthma) from illegal drug and smoking
 - My cat has breathing problems
 - My child doesn't have health issues yet I still don't want him around it
 - Offends my children's noses - they hate the smell, makes them cough including myself
- No/blank – n=129

Q7. In the past 30 days, have you used a commercial tobacco product?

- Yes: 26% (n=37)
- No: 74% (n=106)
- Blank: 1% (n=1)

Q8. Does your apartment building have a smoke-free policy in place?

- Yes: 72% (n=104)
- No: 13% (n=18)
- I don't know: 14% (n=20)
- Blank: 1% (n=2)

Q8a. Have you or anyone living in your apartment changed smoking behaviors since the building went smoke free? (This includes all burnt commercial tobacco products, such as cigarettes, cigars, hookah and water pipes.) Check all that apply:

| | # of respondents |
|---|------------------|
| Yes, quit smoking | 7 |
| Yes, tried to quit smoking | 2 |
| Yes, cut back on smoking | 13 |
| Yes, quit smoking cigarettes and now smoking e-cigarettes | 2 |
| No, no changes in current smoking behavior | 18 |
| No one living in my apartment smokes | 82 |

More people (24) made or attempted a change than those who did nothing (18) when policy was implemented. Again, Live Smoke Free can offer cessation support to your residents and encourage health behaviors inside your property.

PERCEPTIONS OF SMOKE-FREE APARTMENT LIVING

Q9. How much do you support a smoke-free policy in all individual apartment units within your building?

A majority of respondents (73%) support smoke-free policies for individual apartments.

| Strongly support | Somewhat support | Oppose | Strongly oppose | Not sure | Blank |
|------------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|
| 63% (n=91) | 10% (n=14) | 10% (n=15) | 6% (n=9) | 7% (n=10) | 4% (n=5) |

Q10. To what extent would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring multi-unit housing (like apartments and condos) to be smoke free? (e.g. not allow smoking anywhere inside the building)

A majority of respondents (74%) support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring multi-unit housing (apartments and condos) to be smoke free.

| Strongly support | Somewhat support | Oppose | Strongly oppose | Not sure | Blank |
|------------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|
| 57% (n=82) | 17% (n=25) | 12% (n=17) | 4% (n=6) | 8% (n=12) | 2% (n=2) |

Q11. When you are looking for a place to live, how important is the presence of a smoke-free policy?

A majority of respondents believe it is important (80%) to varying degrees to live in an apartment with a smoke-free policy.

| Very important | Important | Slightly important | Not important | Blank |
|----------------|------------|--------------------|---------------|----------|
| 50% (n=72) | 13% (n=19) | 17% (n=24) | 18% (n=26) | 2% (n=3) |

Survey data supports the recommendation to continue to uphold a smoke-free housing policy, explore ways to offer cessation support and increase awareness of existing policy. Hennepin County Public Health (HCPC) and Live Smoke Free (LSF) have worked closely with properties across the housing spectrum transitioning to smoke free and/or supporting existing policies for over 20 years. They have extensive expertise and resources available if you would like to expand your current policy, need compliance and enforcement support, or are interested in cessation resources. HCPH and LSF currently have funding available to assist you.

Please contact us for assistance:

Rose Hauge, Policy & Outreach Specialist and Certified Tobacco Cessation Specialist, Live Smoke Free rose@ansrmn.org

Kassy Nystrom, Hennepin County Public Health Promotion, kassy.nystrom@hennepin.us

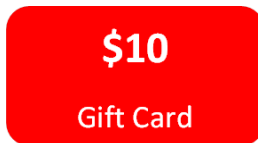
PARTICIPANT COMMENTS RELATED TO SMOKE-FREE HOUSING

- Better to have smoke free housing.
- Even if I don't smoke I don't need better paint.
- Even if it's a smoking free place people still smoke very annoying
- Every living facility should be smoke free if not for adults for the kids.
- Everything is great
- Honestly I feel if you smoke in your apartment that's your business as long as it's not in common areas.
- I appreciate being able to smoke in my apt.
- I consistently smell marijuana in the hallways and stairwells, especially in the pm.
- I don't like the idea of smoke free. I'm a ecig user and I like to sit in my apartment and smoke my ecig. I don't like having to smell weed daily in the hallways and entrances. And in my apartment. Yes, there is a lot of residents smoking weed and it stinks!
- I don't smoke.
- I don't want to ruin it for others in case I start smoking again.
- I encourage all smokers to give up smoking and remain healthy. You will be happy and your family members if you (smoker) spend money you purchase the cigarettes on your family members (kids, children and...) to buy some food or pay your bills. So give up, please! Thank you.
- I have a breathing problem, so as long as smoking is not allowed on the complex is a good thing because the air I breathe in is good and I don't have to worry about having an attack.
- I have experienced young teenagers smoking outside my apartment on the main door several times. The worst thing they do is that they keep spitting while smoking and chewing some illegal weeds. Not sure where to report this kind of incidents to.
- I have walked down the hallway, behind people smoking a cigarette, but trying to get them to stop is not likely.
- I just appreciate a smoke-free housing environment. This means the apartment puts their residents first. And management prides itself on the residents' safety and wellbeing. Also management keeps the apartment up to date as well as maintenance concerns. Also management is also aware of financial challenges that may occur with families and always offer assistance.

- I moved from Willows to Fairways and have noticed an improvement in the smell of smoke, especially marijuana. At my current complex the smell is occasional than constant. That said, i fully support a complex smoke free environment and increasing fines/incentives to achieve this.
- I see people all the time - several times a month smoking on the property.
- I specifically avoid looking at complexes that were 100% smoke-free simply because i smoke cigarettes and have tried to quit several times. I quit for 8 years and still returned to smoking. Very addictive!
- I think its alright to allow smoking in some outdoor areas on the property.
- I think people should be allowed to smoke in their homes but i think there should be consequences for people that smoke in doorways & common areas.
- I've lived in apt complexes where certain buildings were designated smoke free not the entire complex. That seems to work better there than it does here.
- If people smoke they should have a building for smokers and a building for non smoking people.
- Implement fines for smoking in the apartments unit; stricter policies on marijuana smoking.
- In order for smoke free policies to be effective, you also need to include pot as well as tobacco and 2nd hand smoke. I may know of one neighbor on my floor who smokes cigarettes and she follows all of the "no smoking" policies!
- Information on what to do when we smell marijuana in our apartment, the hallways and parking lot.
- It doesn't bother me, I just want people to stay with the mindset of respecting others and keeping clean after ourselves.
- It doesn't bother me.
- It problem fire code not healthy health concerns everybody should try to quit not in building ever & safety.
- It puts smokers outside and into dangerous situations.
- Its a good thing my motto is let the children breathe clean air.
- Most Minnesotans already know that smoking is at least quiet improper in publicly-shared spaces. Smoking really should be disallowed.
- My complex is smoke free housing, however people smoke (including weed) daily in the building. During nice weather cigarette butts are present around the building entrance.
- None for now

- Not in hallway and common area of building, every place should have a smoke area cause you can't stop people from smoking. People will continue to smoke.
- People do not abide to the rules. I smell smoke weed everyday in the 5809 building. I wish it was smoke free.
- People want to smoke this their business that on them.
- Safety reasons due to fires.
- Smoke free housing a great and healthy environment for our children. We should keep it that way.
- Smoke free housing is one of the reasons why we moved here. I understand its hard to regulate but there needs to be a new system put in place to help the smoke free policy work.
- Smoking is necessary to some people in their apartments. What we need is better surveillance and security.
- Smoking should be monitored in hallways
- Sometimes I see people smoking on there patios and/or on the steps in front and back doors outside.
- Support and look for smoke free apartments because indicates its cleaner.
- The thought of smoke free housing is far fetched when smoking is completely legal!! Quit selling tobacco if you want smoke free living. another form of discrimination!!! Your already make millions in taxes because of cigarette taxes! Now you want evict me or force me to move!!
- There are bigger concerns in this building complex than smoking.
- There are people who clearly smoke products other than tobacco in neighboring apartments. It would be nice if there was signage/more reminders about respecting our living conditions.
- They need to do more about all the smoking and illegal smoking that goes on in the building for people that have severe health issues. I have had about 3 asthma attack from the people who live above me smoking illegal drug all the time coming down through the bathroom vent. It's terrible to wake up coughing and to the smell of your apt smelling like I smoke. Hallways smelling terrible from both illegal and cigarette smoke.
- We are grateful to God for smoke free living.
- We used to have very bad neighbors. One time I went outside the hallway and current owners had a staff showed a apartment, the hallway was trashed with garbage, baby diapers and she saw someone smoking weed but didn't even say or enforced anything to the renters. One reason why I am moving this year. People will smoke inside their apartment unit regardless of any rules.

Appendix I – Survey Cover Letter



Get paid for your opinion!

Dear Resident,

The City of Brooklyn Park is conducting a resident survey that asks questions of adults who live in apartment buildings in the city. The City is 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 store gift card for completing the survey.

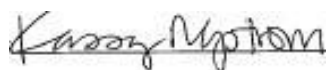
The survey should be completed by the head of household, and only one survey should be completed for each household.

- Answering the questions on the survey will take about 5-10 minutes.
- Your answers are important, and all questions must be answered to receive the gift card.
- 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 half sheet with yellow highlight that is provided in this packet to return the survey and get your \$10 gift card.

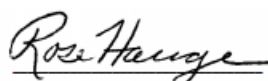
For information about this survey or if you have any questions, please contact Rose Hauge.

Sincerely,



Kassy Nystrom

Senior Health Promotion Specialist
Hennepin County Public Health Department
Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP)
Minnesota

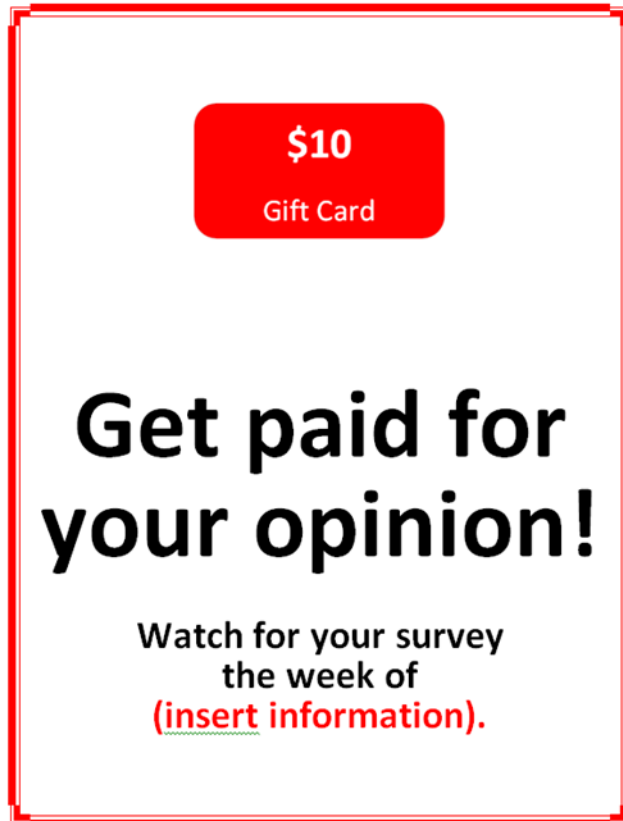


Rose Hauge

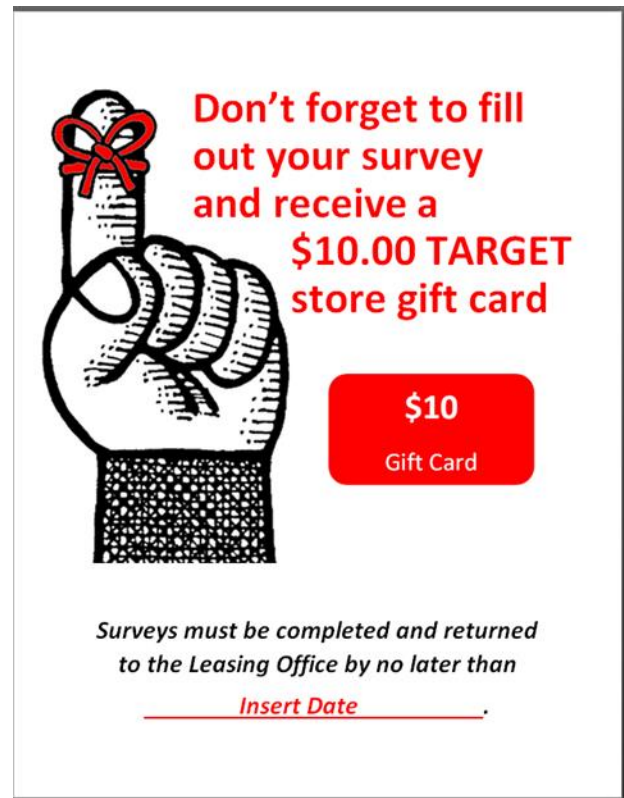
Policy and Outreach Specialist
Live Smoke Free Program
Association for Nonsmokers-

Email: rose@ansrmn.org
Phone: 651-646-3005

Appendix II - Promotion Flyers



A flyer with a red border. At the top, a red rounded rectangle contains the text "\$10 Gift Card". Below this, the main headline reads "Get paid for your opinion!" in large, bold, black font. Underneath, it says "Watch for your survey the week of (insert information)." where "(insert information)" is in red and underlined.



A flyer with a black border. On the left is a black and white illustration of a hand with a red ribbon tied around the index finger. To the right of the hand, the text reads "Don't forget to fill out your survey and receive a \$10.00 TARGET store gift card" in red. Below this text is a red rounded rectangle containing "\$10 Gift Card". At the bottom, it says "Surveys must be completed and returned to the Leasing Office by no later than" followed by a red line and the text "Insert Date" in red.

Appendix III- Gift card instructions

Smoke-Free Housing Resident Survey Instructions

Thank you very much for completing this important survey. We value your input about secondhand smoke and smoke-free policies. We are offering one \$10 Target gift card per household as a thank you for your time and contribution.

To receive the gift card, please follow these steps:

1. Place the completed survey in the envelope provided. All questions must be answered to receive the gift card.
2. Bring your completed survey to (insert location and dates). The last day to turn in surveys is (insert date). When you return your survey to the office, you will receive your gift card.

Thank you for your participation!

Appendix IV – Resident Survey

Resident Survey - Healthy Homes for All Project

The Hennepin County Public Health Department believes that *all housing needs to be healthy housing*. One contributing factor to *healthy housing* is for it to be free from secondhand smoke. According to the U.S. Surgeon General's report, there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. It increases the risk of serious respiratory problems (asthma, lower respiratory tract infections) and middle ear infections in children, is a known human carcinogen (cancer-causing agent), and can cause lung cancer and coronary heart disease in nonsmoking adults.

To learn more about smoke-free policies throughout Hennepin County multi-unit housing developments we have partnered with the City of Brooklyn Park to conduct a resident survey. The survey aims to learn 1) are you aware of smoking policies that may or may not exist within your residence, 2) your opinions of smoking policies and 3) if secondhand smoke affects your health. **As a thank you for your time, you will receive a \$10 Target store gift card for completing the survey (one per household)**. The survey should be completed by the head of household, and only one survey should be completed for each household.

1. How would you rate your apartment building as a healthy place to live?

- Very good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Very poor

Smoking rules in your apartment building:

2. Which of the following statements best describes the rules made by your landlord about tobacco smoking in your apartment building? Check all that apply.

- Smoking is NOT allowed in any shared areas inside my building (e.g. laundry rooms, hallways, stairwells, etc.)
- Smoking is NOT allowed inside any individual apartment unit
- Smoking is NOT allowed in the entrance area outside the building
- Smoking is NOT allowed anywhere outdoors
- Smoking IS allowed anywhere on the property
- Smoking IS allowed in individual apartments but not in shared areas like laundry rooms or hallways
- Smoking IS allowed in some outdoors areas

Don't know/not sure

3. Which of the following statements best describes the rules made by your landlord about e-cigarettes, vapes in your apartment building? Check all that apply.

- E-cigarettes/vapes are NOT allowed in any shared areas inside my building (e.g. laundry rooms, hallways, stairwells, etc.)
- E-cigarettes/vapes are NOT allowed inside any individual apartment unit
- E-cigarettes/vapes are NOT allowed in the entrance area outside the building
- E-cigarettes/vapes are NOT allowed anywhere outdoors
- E-cigarettes/vapes ARE allowed anywhere on the property
- E-cigarettes/vapes ARE allowed in individual apartments but not in shared areas like laundry rooms or hallways
- E-cigarettes/vapes ARE allowed in some outdoors areas
- Don't know/not sure

4. Do you allow people, including yourself, to smoke tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, water or regular pipes, hookahs and bidis) in / around your apartment?

- Smoking is NOT allowed anywhere inside my apartment
- Smoking IS allowed anywhere in my apartment
- Smoking IS allowed in some places in my apartment
- Smoking IS allowed on my patio / deck/porch/garage

5. Do you allow people, including yourself, to smoke e-cigarettes, vapes in / around your apartment?

- E-cigarettes/vapes are NOT allowed anywhere inside my apartment
- E-cigarettes/vapes ARE allowed anywhere in my apartment
- E-cigarettes/vapes ARE allowed in some places in my apartment
- E-cigarettes/vapes ARE allowed on my patio / deck/porch/garage

Exposure to tobacco smoke:

6. How often do you smell tobacco smoke coming into your apartment from another unit or outside?

- Everyday
- A few times a week
- A few times a month
- A few times a year
- Never, skip to question Q7

6a. Do you believe you, or anyone in your household, has experienced any health problems related to tobacco smoke entering your apartment?

- Yes
- No, skip to Q7

6b. If yes, what smoking related health conditions did you or anyone in your household experience? Check all that apply.

- Child: asthma
- Child: chronic ear infection
- Child: frequent respiratory infections
- Adult: asthma
- Adult: chronic respiratory infection
- Adult: heart disease
- Adult: stroke
- Other: _____

Smoking behavior:

7. In the past 30 days, have you used a tobacco product?

- Yes
- No

8. Does your apartment building have a smoke-free (no-smoking) policy in place?

- Yes
- No, skip to Q9
- I don't know

8a. Have you or anyone living in your apartment changed smoking behaviors since the building went smoke free? (This includes all burnt tobacco products, such as cigarettes, cigars, hookah and water pipes.) Check all that apply.

- Yes, quit smoking
- Yes, tried to quit smoking
- Yes, cut back on smoking
- Yes, quit smoking cigarettes and now smoking e-cigarettes
- No, no changes in current smoking behavior
- No one living in my apartment smokes

Your thoughts about smoke-free apartments:

9. How much do you support a smoke-free (no-smoking) policy in all individual apartments units within your building?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Not sure

10. To what extent would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring multi-unit housing (like apartments and condos) to be smoke-free? (e.g., not allowing smoking anywhere inside the building)

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Not sure

11. When you are looking for a place to live, how important is the presence of a smoke-free policy?

- Very important
- Important
- Slightly important
- Not important

About you:

12. Including yourself, how many adults and children live in your household?

___ Number of children age 0-17

___ Number of adults age 18-65

___ Number of adults age 65 and older

13. 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 Latinx
- Other: _____

14. What was your 2019 household income? 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
- \$55,000 -\$79,000
- \$79,001-\$100,000
- More than \$100,000

Please share any other thoughts you may have related to smoke-free housing

Contact Information

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Association for Non-smokers, Live Smoke Free: Rose@ansrmn.org

