



Burnsville Multi-Unit Housing Resident Exposure to Secondhand Smoke and Perceptions of Smoke-Free Housing Policies

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

In partnership with the City of Burnsville, Minnesota

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City of Burnsville
Dakota County Community Development Agency
Professional Data Analysts

Staff and Residents of:

Bluffs of Burnsville
Burnsville Parkway Apartments
Dahcotah View Apartments
Heart of the City Townhomes
Park Ridge Place
Timber Ridge Townhomes
Willow Pond

When referring to tobacco in our work, we are referring to commercial tobacco - products manufactured by companies for recreational and habitual use in cigarettes, e-cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, pipe tobacco, cigars, hookahs, etc., 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 On August 1, 2023 adult use marijuana (cannabis) became legal in Minnesota and secondhand marijuana smoke exposure is a rapidly 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. According to the Minnesota Fire Marshal, from 2017-2021 there were 20 smoking-related fires in Burnsville totaling an estimated \$589,001 in total losses. 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 59% of multi-unit housing (MUH) properties in Dakota County have smoke-free policies (as of December 31, 2022); however, only approximately 36% of MUH properties in Burnsville have smoke-free policies (as of August 3, 2022).⁷ This limited availability of smoke-free housing leaves many Burnsville residents unprotected from secondhand smoke in their homes.

To explore the need for smoke-free housing in Burnsville, DCPH and LSF collaborated with the City of Burnsville to gather community data to inform potential collaborative strategies to promote smoke-free housing opportunities. In 2022 and 2023, LSF and DCPH surveyed residents and property managers of seven Burnsville 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 Burnsville MUH buildings.

Method

Survey Development

LSF and DCPH developed the survey based on previous similar surveys conducted in West St. Paul and other Twin Cities metro communities.⁸ The survey and accompanying materials were translated into Spanish, Somali, and Portuguese. No other languages were requested.

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 City staff and property managers at the Burnsville Property Managers Meeting in May 2022 and recruited two MUH partners from that group. An additional five MUH partners were recruited through direct outreach. Of the seven MUH partners, four were market-rate and three were affordable/subsidized. Of the 30 buildings located at the seven properties, 17 were smoke-free and 13 were smoking allowed. The properties surveyed had a combined total of 912 units.

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/research

	Smoke-Free Properties		Smoking-Allowed Properties			
		# Buildings	# Units		# Buildings	# Units
Market Rate	Willow Pond Surveyed August 2022 Spanish, Portuguese, Somali	4	312	Bluffs of Burnsville Surveyed October 2022 Spanish, Somali	2	176
	Dahcotah View Apartments* Surveyed March 2023 Spanish, Somali	2	168			
	Burnsville Parkway Apartments Surveyed March 2023 Spanish	2	107			
Subsidized	Park Ridge Place Surveyed October 2022 Somali	1	66	Timber Ridge Townhomes Surveyed February 2023 Spanish, Somali	11	49
	Heart of the City Townhomes Surveyed October 2022 Somali	8	34			
*Policy implemented eight months prior to survey						

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

Resident surveys were conducted between August 2022 and March 2023. LSF coordinated with property managers to determine a timeline for survey distribution and collection. At properties where email was the primary mode of communication, the property manager emailed information about the survey and a link to the online survey to residents. At all other properties, LSF or the property manager distributed a flier with the survey information to each door. The flier included a link and a QR code to the online survey. Residents had 1-2 weeks to complete the survey. Property managers were asked to remind residents to complete the survey and LSF provided sample reminder emails and reminder flyers to be posted. The property manager distributed gift cards to residents who completed the survey. Professional Data Analysts, a local health and wellness focused evaluation firm, analyzed the data from the resident survey.

Property manager surveys were conducted simultaneously with resident surveys. LSF emailed a link to the property manager online survey directly to each property manager. LSF analyzed the data from the property manager survey.

The overall response rate of the resident survey was 24% (n=221) (range 15%-41%) and the overall response rate of the property manager survey was 100% (n=6). Twenty percent of respondents reported some type of tobacco use within the last month. Two hundred seventeen (217, 98%) surveys were completed in English and four (2%) surveys were completed in Spanish.

Key Findings from Resident Survey

Smoking Rules and Secondhand Smoke Exposure

- Ninety-six percent (96%) of respondents (including 71% of tobacco users) do not allow smoking in their own units
- More than half of respondents (57%) are exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke every day, multiple times per week, multiple times per month, or multiple times per year.
- More than half of respondents (57%) are exposed to secondhand marijuana smoke every day, multiple times per week, multiple times per month, or multiple times per year.
- 15 respondents cited health problems due to secondhand smoke exposure including asthma, headaches, breathing problems, nausea, cough, sneezing, and mild stroke
- Ten percent (10%) of respondents were unfamiliar with their building's smoking rules.

Support for Smoke-Free Policies

- Eighty-four percent (84%) of respondents from buildings where smoking is allowed strongly, somewhat, or slightly support a smoke-free policy for their building.
- The majority (87%) 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 73% of tobacco users.
- The majority (73%) of respondents support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring apartment buildings to be smoke free. This includes 70% of respondents from smoking-allowed buildings and 38% of tobacco users. Support for a smoke-free requirement was lowest among respondents who identified as white alone (69%).

Key Findings from Property Manager Survey

- One hundred percent (100%, n=6) of respondents indicated that it costs at least an extra \$301 to turnover an apartment that has been smoked in and half said it costs an extra \$1,000 or more.
- Most respondents (67%, n=4) sometimes receive complaints from residents about secondhand smoke, one respondent (n=1) receives complaints frequently, and one respondent (n=1) never receives complaints.
- One hundred percent (100%, n=6) of respondents sometimes or frequently receive requests from a potential renter for a smoke-free unit.

- Half of respondents (50% n=3) said they never receive requests from a potential renter for a smoking-allowed unit and half said they sometimes receive such requests.
- Eighty-three percent (83%, n=5) support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring that property owners disclose what the smoking policy is for the building prior to moving in.
- Sixty-seven percent (67%, n=4) support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring apartment buildings to be smoke free.

Resident Survey Results

Demographics

Building smoke free or smoking allowed	Building subsidized or market-rate				Total N
	Market		Subsidized		
	N	%	N	%	N
Smoke Free	114	66.7%	30	60.0%	144
Smoking Allowed	57	33.3%	20	40.0%	77
Total	171	100.0%	50	100.0%	221

What is your age?	Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed					
	Market		Subsidized		Smoke Free			Smoking Allowed		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
18-25	28	12.7%	28	16.4%	0	0.0%	16	11.1%	12	15.6%
26-55	138	62.4%	113	66.1%	25	50.0%	81	56.3%	57	74.0%
56-65	26	11.8%	18	10.5%	8	16.0%	21	14.6%	5	6.5%
Over 65	29	13.1%	12	7.0%	17	34.0%	26	18.1%	3	3.9%
Total	221	100.0%	171	100.0%	50	100.0%	144	100.0%	77	100.0%

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market		Subsidized		Smoke Free		Smoking Allowed	
Which of the following do you consider yourself?	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
White	135	61.1%	113	66.1%	22	44.0%	92	63.9%	43	55.8%
Black or African American	43	19.5%	27	15.8%	16	32.0%	30	20.8%	13	16.9%
Hispanic or Latino	20	9.0%	18	10.5%	2	4.0%	10	6.9%	10	13.0%
Asian or Asian American	16	7.2%	14	8.2%	2	4.0%	10	6.9%	6	7.8%
Other	8	3.6%	4	2.3%	4	8.0%	4	2.8%	4	5.2%
[Missing]	6	2.7%	4	2.3%	2	4.0%	4	2.8%	2	2.6%
American Indian or Alaska Native	3	1.4%	2	1.2%	1	2.0%	2	1.4%	1	1.3%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	2	0.9%	1	0.6%	1	2.0%	2	1.4%	0	0.0%

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market		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	%
\$23,000 or less	37	16.7%	13	7.6%	24	48.0%	27	18.8%	10	13.0%
\$23,001-\$39,000	52	23.5%	38	22.2%	14	28.0%	28	19.4%	24	31.2%
\$39,001-\$55,000	51	23.1%	45	26.3%	6	12.0%	30	20.8%	21	27.3%
\$55,001-\$79,000	41	18.6%	41	24.0%	0	0.0%	33	22.9%	8	10.4%
\$79,001-\$100,000	22	10.0%	22	12.9%	0	0.0%	13	9.0%	9	11.7%
More than \$100,000	7	3.2%	7	4.1%	0	0.0%	6	4.2%	1	1.3%
[Missing]	11	5.0%	5	2.9%	6	12.0%	7	4.9%	4	5.2%
Total	221	100.0%	171	100.0%	50	100.0%	144	100.0%	77	100.0%

In the last month, which of the following tobacco products have you used?			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market		Subsidized		Smoke Free		Smoking Allowed	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
I haven't used any of these products	169	76.5%	136	79.5%	33	66.0%	116	80.6%	53	68.8%
Cigarettes	31	14.0%	19	11.1%	12	24.0%	14	9.7%	17	22.1%
E-cigarettes/vapes	17	7.7%	13	7.6%	4	8.0%	9	6.3%	8	10.4%
[Missing]	7	3.2%	4	2.3%	3	6.0%	4	2.8%	3	3.9%
Cigarillos	4	1.8%	3	1.8%	1	2.0%	2	1.4%	2	2.6%
Cigars	3	1.4%	3	1.8%	0	0.0%	2	1.4%	1	1.3%
Water or regular pipes	1	0.5%	1	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.3%
Hookahs	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	1	2.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.3%

The Apartment That You Live In

In total, how long have you lived in your current apartment building?	N	%
Less than 1 year	48	21.7%
1-5 years	113	51.1%
6-10 years	41	18.6%
More than 10 years	19	8.6%
Total	221	100.0%

Are there children under the age of 18 living in your apartment?			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market		Subsidized		Smoke Free		Smoking Allowed	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	72	32.6%	49	28.7%	23	46.0%	36	25.0%	36	46.8%
No	148	67.0%	121	70.8%	27	54.0%	107	74.3%	41	53.2%
[Missing]	1	0.5%	1	0.6%	0	0.0%	1	0.7%	0	0.0%
Total	221	100.0%	171	100.0%	50	100.0%	144	100.0%	77	100.0%

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market		Subsidized		Smoke Free		Smoking Allowed	
Are there adults over 65 (including yourself if applicable) living in your apartment?	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	39	17.6%	19	11.1%	20	40.0%	34	23.6%	5	6.5%
No	181	81.9%	151	88.3%	30	60.0%	110	76.4%	71	92.2%
[Missing]	1	0.5%	1	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.3%
Total	221	100.0%	171	100.0%	50	100.0%	144	100.0%	77	100.0%

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke

Residents' Smoking Rules

(by building type and tobacco use)

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market		Subsidized		Smoke Free		Smoking Allowed	
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)?	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Smoking IS allowed anywhere in my apartment	5	2.3%	5	2.9%	0	0.0%	1	0.7%	4	5.2%
Smoking IS allowed in some places in my apartment	4	1.8%	4	2.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	5.2%
Smoking is NOT allowed anywhere inside my apartment	212	95.9%	162	94.7%	50	100.0%	143	99.3%	69	89.6%
Total	221	100.0%	171	100.0%	50	100.0%	144	100.0%	77	100.0%

							[Tobacco Users Only] Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Tobacco users only		Smoke Free		Smoking Allowed			
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)?	N	%	N	%	N	Column %	N	Column %	N	Column %
Smoking IS allowed anywhere in my apartment	5	2.3%	5	11.1%	1	4.2%	4	19.0%		
Smoking IS allowed in some places in my apartment	4	1.8%	2	4.4%	0	0.0%	2	9.5%		
Smoking is NOT allowed anywhere inside my apartment	212	95.9%	38	84.4%	23	95.8%	15	71.4%		
Total	221	100.0%	45	100.0%	24	100.0%	21	100.0%		

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market		Subsidized		Smoke Free		Smoking Allowed	
Do you allow people, including yourself, to vape e-cigarettes in your apartment (not including decks, porches, patios, or garages)?	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Vaping IS allowed anywhere in my apartment	17	7.7%	14	8.2%	3	6.0%	6	4.2%	11	14.3%
Vaping IS allowed in some places in my apartment	11	5.0%	10	5.8%	1	2.0%	5	3.5%	6	7.8%
Vaping is NOT allowed anywhere inside my apartment	192	86.9%	147	86.0%	45	90.0%	132	91.7%	60	77.9%
[Missing]	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	1	2.0%	1	0.7%	0	0.0%
Total	221	100.0%	171	100.0%	50	100.0%	144	100.0%	77	100.0%

	[Tobacco Users Only] Building smoke free or smoking allowed							
			Tobacco users only		Smoke Free		Smoking Allowed	
Do you allow people, including yourself, to vape e-cigarettes in your apartment (not including decks, porches, patios, or garages)?	N	%	N	%	N	Column %	N	Column %
Vaping IS allowed anywhere in my apartment	17	7.7%	14	31.1%	4	16.7%	10	47.6%
Vaping IS allowed in some places in my apartment	11	5.0%	6	13.3%	3	12.5%	3	14.3%
Vaping is NOT allowed anywhere inside my apartment	192	86.9%	25	55.6%	17	70.8%	8	38.1%
[Missing]	1	0.5%						
Total	221	100.0%	45	100.0%	24	100.0%	21	100.0%

Residents' Exposure to Secondhand Smoke

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market		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	%
Everyday	18	8.1%	17	9.9%	1	2.0%	8	5.6%	10	13.0%
A few times a week	38	17.2%	37	21.6%	1	2.0%	24	16.7%	14	18.2%
A few times a month	30	13.6%	25	14.6%	5	10.0%	19	13.2%	11	14.3%
A few times a year	39	17.6%	32	18.7%	7	14.0%	25	17.4%	14	18.2%
Never	88	39.8%	56	32.7%	32	64.0%	63	43.8%	25	32.5%
[Missing]	8	3.6%	4	2.3%	4	8.0%	5	3.5%	3	3.9%
Total	221	100.0%	171	100.0%	50	100.0%	144	100.0%	77	100.0%

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market		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	%
Everyday	18	8.1%	17	9.9%	1	2.0%	12	8.3%	6	7.8%
A few times a week	38	17.2%	36	21.1%	2	4.0%	22	15.3%	16	20.8%
A few times a month	32	14.5%	30	17.5%	2	4.0%	21	14.6%	11	14.3%
A few times a year	37	16.7%	34	19.9%	3	6.0%	28	19.4%	9	11.7%
Never	88	39.8%	50	29.2%	38	76.0%	55	38.2%	33	42.9%
[Missing]	8	3.6%	4	2.3%	4	8.0%	6	4.2%	2	2.6%
Total	221	100.0%	171	100.0%	50	100.0%	144	100.0%	77	100.0%

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market		Subsidized		Smoke Free		Smoking Allowed	
Have you reported tobacco (or other) smoke in your apartment to your property manager?	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	38	17.2%	32	18.7%	6	12.0%	24	16.7%	14	18.2%
No	136	61.5%	109	63.7%	27	54.0%	88	61.1%	48	62.3%
Does not apply to me	47	21.3%	30	17.5%	17	34.0%	32	22.2%	15	19.5%
Total	221	100.0%	171	100.0%	50	100.0%	144	100.0%	77	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/not enough time
	Don't care/doesn't bother me/not perceived as a problem
	Not wanting to complain / fear of reprisal
	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
	It's not my business

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market		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	%
Yes	15	6.8%	11	6.4%	4	8.0%	8	5.6%	7	9.1%
No	204	92.3%	158	92.4%	46	92.0%	134	93.1%	70	90.9%
[Missing]	2	0.9%	2	1.2%	0	0.0%	2	1.4%	0	0.0%
Total	221	100.0%	171	100.0%	50	100.0%	144	100.0%	77	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 / inflamed airways
	Nausea/vomiting
	Cough//sore throat/congestion
	Sneezing/stuffy nose
	Itchy eyes
	Mild stroke

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market		Subsidized		Smoke Free		Smoking Allowed	
Have you spent money on the following because of tobacco smoke in or around your apartment?	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
[Missing]	120	54.3%	91	53.2%	29	58.0%	85	59.0%	35	45.5%
Air purifiers, fans, fresheners or odor absorbers	71	32.1%	63	36.8%	8	16.0%	39	27.1%	32	41.6%
Other (specific costs mentioned: wet vacuum)	27	12.2%	16	9.4%	11	22.0%	16	11.1%	11	14.3%
Cleaning supplies, including dry cleaning	15	6.8%	10	5.8%	5	10.0%	9	6.3%	6	7.8%
Door and window seals	9	4.1%	6	3.5%	3	6.0%	5	3.5%	4	5.2%

Perceptions of Smoke-Free Policies

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market		Subsidized		Smoke Free		Smoking Allowed	
How familiar are you with your building's smoking rules?	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Not familiar, I do not know what my building's smoking rules are at all	10	4.5%	8	4.7%	2	4.0%	4	2.8%	6	7.8%
Somewhat unfamiliar, I am unsure where smoking is and is not allowed at my building	13	5.9%	12	7.0%	1	2.0%	7	4.9%	6	7.8%
Somewhat familiar, I have a general idea of where smoking is and is not allowed at my building	47	21.3%	41	24.0%	6	12.0%	25	17.4%	22	28.6%
Very familiar, I know where smoking is and is not allowed at my building	149	67.4%	109	63.7%	40	80.0%	106	73.6%	43	55.8%
[Missing]	2	0.9%	1	0.6%	1	2.0%	2	1.4%	0	0.0%
Total	221	100.0%	171	100.0%	50	100.0%	144	100.0%	77	100.0%

			Building subsidized or market-rate			
			Market		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	10	13.0%	8	14.0%	2	10.0%
Slightly support	6	7.8%	5	8.8%	1	5.0%
Somewhat support	12	15.6%	8	14.0%	4	20.0%
Strongly support	47	61.0%	34	59.6%	13	65.0%
[Missing]	2	2.6%	2	3.5%	0	0.0%
Total	77	100.0%	57	100.0%	20	100.0%

Smoking Behavior

			Building subsidized or market-rate			
			Market		Subsidized	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
[Smoke Free Only] Have you or anyone living in your apartment changed smoking behaviors since the building went smoke free?						
No one living in my apartment smokes	100	69.4%	81	71.1%	19	63.3%
No, I did not live here when the building went smoke free	36	25.0%	28	24.6%	8	26.7%
No, no changes in current smoking behavior	15	10.4%	9	7.9%	6	20.0%
Yes, cut back on smoking	6	4.2%	3	2.6%	3	10.0%
Yes, quit smoking	4	2.8%	3	2.6%	0	0.0%
Yes, quit smoking cigarettes and switched to vaping	3	2.1%	2	1.8%	2	6.7%
Yes, tried to quit smoking	2	1.4%	2	1.8%	0	0.0%
[Missing]	2	1.4%	2	1.8%	0	0.0%

			Building subsidized or market-rate			
			Market		Subsidized	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
[Smoke Free Only] Have you or anyone living in your apartment changed vaping behaviors since the building went smoke free?						
No one living in my apartment vapes	105	72.9%	83	72.8%	22	73.3%
No, I did not live here when the building went smoke free	36	25.0%	28	24.6%	8	26.7%
No, no changes in current vaping behavior	16	11.1%	11	9.6%	5	16.7%
Yes, quit vaping	3	2.1%	2	1.8%	1	3.3%
[Missing]	2	1.4%	2	1.8%	0	0.0%
Yes, started vaping	1	0.7%	1	0.9%	0	0.0%
Yes, tried to quit vaping	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Yes, cut back on vaping	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Opinions about Citywide Smoke-Free Housing Incentives and Ordinances

Support for Disclosure Ordinance

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

			Building subsidized or market-rate				Building smoke free or smoking allowed			
			Market		Subsidized		Smoke Free		Smoking Allowed	
Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring building owners to disclose to potential residents what the smoking policy is for the building prior to signing a lease?	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	193	87.3%	151	88.3%	42	84.0%	128	88.9%	65	84.4%
No	27	12.2%	19	11.1%	8	16.0%	16	11.1%	11	14.3%
[Missing]	1	0.5%	1	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.3%
Total	221	100.0%	171	100.0%	50	100.0%	144	100.0%	77	100.0%

			Tobacco use in the last month [summarized from tobacco products used]					
			Yes		No		[Missing]	
Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring building owners to disclose to potential residents what the smoking policy is for the building prior to signing a lease?	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	193	87.3%	33	73.3%	154	91.1%	6	85.7%
No	27	12.2%	11	24.4%	15	8.9%	1	14.3%
[Missing]	1	0.5%	1	2.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	221	100.0%	45	100.0%	169	100.0%	7	100.0%

	Are there children under the age of 18 living in your apartment?							
			Yes		No		[Missing]	
Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring building owners to disclose to potential residents what the smoking policy is for the building prior to signing a lease?	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	193	87.3%	61	84.7%	131	88.5%	1	100.0%
No	27	12.2%	11	15.3%	16	10.8%	0	0.0%
[Missing]	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	1	0.7%	0	0.0%
Total	221	100.0%	72	100.0%	148	100.0%	1	100.0%

	Are there adults over 65 (including yourself if applicable) living in your apartment?							
			Yes		No		[Missing]	
Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring building owners to disclose to potential residents what the smoking policy is for the building prior to signing a lease?	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	193	87.3%	38	97.4%	155	85.6%	0	0.0%
No	27	12.2%	1	2.6%	26	14.4%	0	0.0%
[Missing]	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%
Total	221	100.0%	39	100.0%	181	100.0%	1	100.0%

Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring building owners to disclose to potential residents what the smoking policy is for the building prior to signing a lease?	Black or African American, alone or in combination							Total N
	[Missing]		No		Yes			
	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Yes	5	83.3%	151	87.8%	37	86.0%	193	
No	1	16.7%	20	11.6%	6	14.0%	27	
[Missing]	0	0.0%	1	0.6%	0	0.0%	1	
Total	6	100.0%	172	100.0%	43	100.0%	221	

Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring building owners to disclose to potential residents what the smoking policy is for the building prior to signing a lease?	White, alone or in combination							Total N
	[Missing]		No		Yes			
	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Yes	5	83.3%	69	86.3%	119	88.1%	193	
No	1	16.7%	11	13.8%	15	11.1%	27	
[Missing]	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.7%	1	
Total	6	100.0%	80	100.0%	135	100.0%	221	

Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring building owners to disclose to potential residents what the smoking policy is for the building prior to signing a lease?	Hispanic or Latino, alone or in combination						Total
	[Missing]		No		Yes		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Yes	5	83.3%	171	87.7%	17	85.0%	193
No	1	16.7%	23	11.8%	3	15.0%	27
[Missing]	0	0.0%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	1
Total	6	100.0%	195	100.0%	20	100.0%	221

Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring building owners to disclose to potential residents what the smoking policy is for the building prior to signing a lease?	American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian or Asian American, Native Hawai'ian or Pacific Islander, or Other, alone or in combination						Total
	[Missing]		No		Yes		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Yes	5	83.3%	163	87.2%	25	89.3%	193
No	1	16.7%	23	12.3%	3	10.7%	27
[Missing]	0	0.0%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	1
Total	6	100.0%	187	100.0%	28	100.0%	221

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 / avoid misunderstandings	Concern for individual rights
	Promotes health and safety	It is unnecessary/smoking is legal
	Previous negative experiences with secondhand smoke exposure at home	It's none of my business / I don't care

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		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	%
Yes	162	73.3%	122	71.3%	40	80.0%	108	75.0%	54	70.1%
No	53	24.0%	44	25.7%	9	18.0%	32	22.2%	21	27.3%
[Missing]	6	2.7%	5	2.9%	1	2.0%	4	2.8%	2	2.6%
Total	221	100.0%	171	100.0%	50	100.0%	144	100.0%	77	100.0%

			Tobacco use in the last month [summarized from tobacco products used]					
			Yes		No		[Missing]	
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	%
Yes	162	73.3%	17	37.8%	140	82.8%	5	71.4%
No	53	24.0%	27	60.0%	24	14.2%	2	28.6%
[Missing]	6	2.7%	1	2.2%	5	3.0%	0	0.0%
Total	221	100.0%	45	100.0%	169	100.0%	7	100.0%

			Are there children under the age of 18 living in your apartment?					
			Yes		No		[Missing]	
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	%
Yes	162	73.3%	56	77.8%	105	70.9%	1	100.0%
No	53	24.0%	14	19.4%	39	26.4%	0	0.0%
[Missing]	6	2.7%	2	2.8%	4	2.7%	0	0.0%
Total	221	100.0%	72	100.0%	148	100.0%	1	100.0%

	Are there adults over 65 (including yourself if applicable) living in your apartment?							
			Yes		No		[Missing]	
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	%
Yes	162	73.3%	31	79.5%	131	72.4%	0	0.0%
No	53	24.0%	8	20.5%	45	24.9%	0	0.0%
[Missing]	6	2.7%	0	0.0%	5	2.8%	1	100.0%
Total	221	100.0%	39	100.0%	181	100.0%	1	100.0%

Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring apartment buildings to be smoke free? (e.g. not allow smoking anywhere inside the building)	Black or African American, alone or in combination							Total
	[Missing]		No		Yes			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	
Yes	2	33.3%	125	72.7%	35	81.4%	162	
No	4	66.7%	42	24.4%	7	16.3%	53	
[Missing]	0	0.0%	5	2.9%	1	2.3%	6	
Total	6	100.0%	172	100.0%	43	100.0%	221	

Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring apartment buildings to be smoke free? (e.g. not allow smoking anywhere inside the building)	White, alone or in combination							Total
	[Missing]		No		Yes			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	
Yes	2	33.3%	67	83.8%	93	68.9%	162	
No	4	66.7%	10	12.5%	39	28.9%	53	
[Missing]	0	0.0%	3	3.8%	3	2.2%	6	
Total	6	100.0%	80	100.0%	135	100.0%	221	

Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring apartment buildings to be smoke free? (e.g. not allow smoking anywhere inside the building)	Hispanic or Latino, alone or in combination							Total
	[Missing]		No		Yes			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	
Yes	2	33.3%	145	74.4%	15	75.0%	162	
No	4	66.7%	45	23.1%	4	20.0%	53	
[Missing]	0	0.0%	5	2.6%	1	5.0%	6	
Total	6	100.0%	195	100.0%	20	100.0%	221	

Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring apartment buildings to be smoke free? (e.g. not allow smoking anywhere inside the building)	American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian or Asian American, Native Hawai'ian or Pacific Islander, or Other, alone or in combination						Total N
	[Missing]		No		Yes		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Yes	2	33.3%	136	72.7%	24	85.7%	162
No	4	66.7%	46	24.6%	3	10.7%	53
[Missing]	0	0.0%	5	2.7%	1	3.6%	6
Total	6	100.0%	187	100.0%	28	100.0%	221

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
	Reduces odor and improves cleanliness	It's too cold to smoke outside
	Protects everyone (including pets), especially children and seniors, from secondhand smoke / prevents illness	It should be the property owners or residents' decision / government overreach
	Helps prevent fires and property damage	Concern for individual rights and personal choice
		Could be used against renters
		Could limit housing options for people who smoke

Property Manager Survey Results

Property Demographics

Does your building/property participate in a voucher/low-income housing program?	N	%
Yes	2	33.3%
No	4	66.7%

In your estimation, what percentage of your rental units have residents who smoke living in them?	N	%
25% or less	4	66.7%
26% - 50%	2	33.3%
51% - 75%	0	0.0%
More than 75%	0	0.0%
Don't know	0	0.0%

Approximately what percentage of your rental units have families with children living in them?	N	%
25% or less	1	16.7%
26% - 50%	2	33.3%
51% - 75%	2	33.3%
More than 75%	1	16.7%
Don't know	0	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	0	0.0%
Between \$301 and \$500	2	33.3%
Between \$501 and \$1,000	1	16.7%
Over \$1,000	3	50.0%

How does turnover cleaning and maintenance of an apartment that has been smoked in compared to a smoke-free apartment? (For example, extra cleaning, painting, replacement of fixtures, etc.)	Responses
	Extra carpet cleaning (odor treat usually around \$80) Kilzing the wall around \$300, using an ozone machine to eliminate odor
	Extra charges for cleaning, painting and flooring
	Increase cost in painting procedure, carpet replacement, ozone machine to clear out smell and chemicals, resurfacing of shower tiles/tubs if tenant was long term renter and smoker
	Extra cleaning, replacement of doors and other fixtures, extra painting, replacement of all flooring
	Extra cleaning, painting, flooring replacement, outlets, fixtures, and could be more if they smoked in the unit for a lot of years.
	Extra painting and cleaning needed, new blinds throughout the apartment and possibly new carpet.

Health of Employees

Has your health been negatively impacted by secondhand smoke on the property?	N	%
Yes	0	0.0%
No	6	100.0%

Has your co-worker's health been negatively impacted by secondhand smoke on the property?	N	%
Yes	0	0.0%
No	6	100.0%

Renter Preferences

How often do you get complaints from residents about secondhand smoke?	N	%
Never	1	16.7%
Sometimes	4	66.7%
Frequently	1	16.7%

How often do you get a request from a potential renter for a smoke-free unit?	N	%
Never	0	0.0%
Sometimes	3	50.0%
Frequently	3	50.0%

How often do you get a request from a potential renter for a smoking unit?	N	%
Never	3	50.0%
Sometimes	3	50.0%
Frequently	0	0.0%

Smoke-Free Readiness

Do you prohibit the smoking of cigarettes, cigars, e-cigarettes, or other tobacco products in your buildings/properties?	N	%
Yes	5	83.3%
No	1	16.7%

If yes, please check all areas where smoking is prohibited.	N	%
Common areas	4	24%
Individual apartments	4	24%
Patios/decks	4	24%
Apartment building entrance	4	24%
Entire grounds (apartments and grounds)	1	6%

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)? Check all that apply.	N	%
Higher vacancy rate	0	0.0%
Increased turnover	1	9.1%
Decrease in market size of potential renters	1	9.1%
Increase in staff time for enforcement	2	18.2%
Legal issues	1	9.1%
Resident complaints	1	9.1%
I have no concerns	0	0.0%
I am not interested in adopting a smoke-free policy	0	0.0%
Too many other on-site issues to deal with (violence, substance abuse, etc)	0	0.0%
My building already has a smoke-free policy	3	27.3%
Other:	2	18.2%

Who makes policy decisions for your building/property? (Check all that apply)	N	%
The property manager	5	27.8%
The regional property manager	5	27.8%
The company president/CEO	4	22.2%
The building owner	3	16.7%
The Board of Directors	1	5.6%
Other	0	0.0%

How interested are you in adopting a smoke-free policy for your building?	N	%
Very interested	0	0.0%
Somewhat interested	1	16.7%
Not interested	0	0.0%
I don't make policy decisions	1	16.7%
My building already has a smoke-free policy	4	66.7%

What additional support/resources do you need to consider adopting a smoke-free policy in your building? (Check all that apply)	N	%
Educational materials or presentation for residents	1	10.0%
Conduct training session for building/property staff	1	10.0%
Customized step-by-step timeline for implementing a policy	1	10.0%
Sample documents like a resident survey, resident notification letter, and smoke-free lease addendum	2	20.0%
Commercial tobacco cessation (quit) resources for residents	1	10.0%
My building already has a smoke-free policy	4	40.0%
None	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%

Support for Citywide Smoke-Free Housing Incentives and Ordinances

Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring building owners to disclose to potential residents what the building's smoking policy is prior to signing a lease?	N	%
Yes	5	83.3%
No	1	16.7%

Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring building owners to disclose to potential residents what the building's smoking policy is prior to signing a lease?	Common Responses in Support	Common Responses not in Support
	Clear communication supports policy compliance.	It is the renter's responsibility to ask
	Important information for renters to have in order to make an educated decision	

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	4	66.7%
No	2	33.3%

Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring apartment buildings to be smoke free? (e.g. not allow smoking anywhere inside the building)	Common Responses in Support	Common Responses not in Support
	Renters shouldn't be forced to breathe secondhand smoke in their homes from neighboring units.	It is unnecessary
	Indoor smoking causes property damage	Renters should have the right/option to smoke.
	Secondhand smoke drift affects the health and wellbeing of residents.	Taking away the right/option to smoke will cause more harm than good.
	Smoke-free housing benefits everyone	

What would incentivize you to adopt a smoke-free policy (regardless of whether you have already adopted one)? Check all that apply.	N	%
Discounted rental licensing fees for properties that are smoke free	2	28.6%
Special recognition from the city for properties that are smoke free	2	28.6%
Neither	1	14.3%
Other	2	28.6%

Please explain these incentives would or would not be effective:	Responses
	By eliminating the option to smoke in your building, you are helping to eliminate a cause of fires. It might also help bring more people in that, even though they may smoke, may not want it in their apartment either and enjoy the smoke free aspect.
	It shouldn't make a difference on the rental license fees if you are or are not smoke free
	We are already smoke free
	More of an incentive for owners to invest in the time it takes to convert the building
	I think some type of recognition would help promote/advertise our property.

Discussion

Limitations

The overall response rate for the resident survey was 24%. This response rate is typical however this survey may not be perfectly representative of the larger Burnsville population of renters. It is possible that some groups were less likely to respond; for example, people without strong opinions about smoke-free housing, people who were not comfortable sharing their opinion on this topic, or people with technological barriers. The range of response rates across properties was 15%-41%. This could indicate some response bias because some properties were overrepresented and others were underrepresented. Certain groups may be overrepresented in this sample as well, including people ages 26-55 and English-speaking people.

Resident Exposure to Secondhand Smoke

Although 96% of respondents (including 71% of tobacco users) reported that they do not allow smoking in their own units, 57% still reported exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke and 57% reported exposure to secondhand marijuana smoke in their unit. This exposure demonstrates a real health risk for Burnsville renters and an unmet demand for smoke-free housing. This unmet demand is further demonstrated by the fact that most respondents who live in smoking-allowed buildings are non-tobacco users (69%) who would presumably prefer to live in a smoke-free building. Furthermore, property managers indicated that they get requests for smoke-free housing from potential renters more frequently (50%) than for smoking-allowed housing (0%).

The identical rates of exposure to tobacco smoke and marijuana smoke is worth further exploration. This survey was conducted from fall 2022 to spring 2023 when Minnesota's cannabis legalization bill began making its way through the State legislature. The bill was ultimately passed and signed into law in May 2023. Although marijuana use was technically still illegal at the time of this survey, results show that secondhand marijuana smoke exposure in Burnsville multi-unit housing is just as prevalent as secondhand tobacco smoke exposure. This shows a need for smoke-free policies that explicitly prohibit marijuana smoking/vaping and resources to prevent secondhand marijuana smoke exposure.

Some residents reported health problems related to their secondhand smoke exposure including asthma, headaches, breathing problems, nausea, cough, sneezing, and even mild stroke. A large number of respondents (101, 46%) reported that they spent money on things like air purifiers, cleaning supplies, and door/window seals to address secondhand smoke in or around their apartment.

An unexpected result was that respondents living in subsidized housing were less likely than those in market rate housing to report exposure to secondhand tobacco (64% vs. 33% reported they were never exposed) and marijuana (76% vs. 29% reported they were never exposed)

smoke. This result is not reflective of similar surveys in other Twin Cities communities. However, respondents living in smoking-allowed buildings are more likely than those in smoke-free buildings (72% vs. 55%) to report being in a lower income bracket (55k and under) which does reflect disparities in access to smoke-free housing seen more broadly in the Twin Cities and the United States.

Although property managers did not report any negative health impacts from secondhand smoke on themselves or other employees, five out of six property managers reported receiving complaints about secondhand smoke either sometimes or frequently from residents. Half of property managers indicated that it costs over \$1,000 more to turnover a smoking-allowed apartment than a smoke-free apartment.

The secondhand smoke issues reported by Burnsville MUH residents and property managers in this survey point to a need for more smoke-free housing options for renters and continued support for property managers with implementing smoke-free policies and maintaining compliance.

“My daughter is allergic to cigarette smoke. It would be nice to not have to worry about smoke coming in and irritating her.” - 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 living in smoking-allowed buildings indicated that a child lives in their home. Only 7% of respondents living in smoking-allowed buildings indicated that a person 65 or older lives in their home but that is likely because most of the older adults surveyed lived in a smoke-free senior housing building. Given the rates of exposure discussed previously, this shows that vulnerable residents, especially children, living in Burnsville apartments are not adequately protected.

“Even if it doesn't impact me, I know plenty of children who have been adversely affected by living in a home where cigarette smoke is present (as well as pets).” - Resident

Reducing Health Disparities

In this survey, white people were somewhat more likely to live in market-rate housing and smoke-free housing. White respondents made up 61% percent of respondents but 66% percent of those living in market rate housing and 64% percent of those living in smoke-free housing.

This survey found higher tobacco use rates among respondents living in subsidized housing and among those with an annual income of \$39,000 or less. Respondents with an annual income of \$55,000 or less were more likely to live in smoking-allowed buildings.

These disparities in tobacco use and access to smoke-free housing for low-income people come as no surprise. Creating more smoke-free housing for renters, especially low-income renters, would help to address these disparities by reducing secondhand smoke exposure and providing living environments that help smokers quit. Ten percent of respondents in smoke-free buildings indicated a positive change in their smoking behaviors and 2% reported a positive change in vaping behaviors as a result of their building going smoke free.

Resident Perceptions of Smoke-Free Policies

Understanding of the Smoke-Free Rules at the Building

Only 10% of respondents expressed some degree of unfamiliarity with their building's smoking rules. This is an encouraging indicator that property owners and managers are doing a good job of communicating the smoking rules to their residents. Good communication is crucial for smoke-free policy implementation and compliance.

Support for Smoke-Free Policy Adoption

In buildings where smoking is currently allowed, a strong majority (84%) of respondents support a smoke-free policy for their building including “strongly support” (61%), “somewhat support” (16%), and “slightly support” (8%). 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.

“I feel like it is not too much to ask for someone to go outside to smoke. Most of the apartments have balconies or doors outside.”- Resident

“Smell would be better, help with asthma, easier to breathe, save money on electricity from air purifiers and fans, save money on filters for air purifiers” - Resident

Support for Citywide Smoke-Free Housing Incentives and Ordinances

Disclosure

Across the board there was very strong support from both residents (87%) and property owners/managers (83%, 5 out of 6) for a citywide ordinance requiring the disclosure of the building’s smoking policy (whether smoking is allowed or prohibited) to residents prior to signing a lease. This was supported both by respondents from smoke-free (89%) and smoking-allowed buildings (84%). Disclosure was also supported among respondents who identified as tobacco users (73%) and strongly supported among respondents with adults over 65 living in the apartment (97%). There were no significant differences in support for disclosure between race/ethnic groups.

“As a renter, you should be made aware of that prior to signing the lease so you can make the decision if you are okay with that or not. As a former smoker, I am happy that [property name] has become smoke free. I like breathing clean air. If there was smoking allowed in the property I don’t think I would have stayed living here as long as I have.” - Resident

“It is always best to disclose things that could potentially harm people, or is a very divisive thing. It would make the expectations clear, and would stop people from some complaints because “they didn’t know”.” - Resident

*“Prospects should have all information about what their lifestyle will be like to make an educated decision whether the Property is right for them. Tenants knowing all the information will lessen the possibility for lease violation and will help create a harmonious living environment for all residents and staff.”
-Property Manager*

Requirement

Renters (73%) and property managers (67% 4 out of 6) showed strong support for a citywide ordinance requiring apartment buildings to be smoke free. Support for a smoke-free housing requirement among respondents in smoke-free buildings (75%) was only slightly higher than support among respondents in smoking-allowed buildings (70%). Support was higher among respondents in subsidized buildings (80%) compared to those in market rate buildings (71%). Over a third (38%) of respondents who identified as tobacco users were supportive of such a requirement. Support was slightly higher among respondents with children (78%) or people over the age of 65 (80%) in the home. Among racial and ethnic groups, support for a smoke-free housing ordinance was lowest among white-alone respondents (69%) and highest among a combined group of non-white respondents (86%).⁹

As detailed in the introduction, low-income earners and people of color are those in greatest need of smoke-free housing protections because they are exposed to secondhand smoke at higher rates than other groups. It is not surprising that these same groups were the most supportive of a citywide smoke-free housing requirement in this survey.

“Marijuana odor makes me puke. This has resulted in, on one instance, having to keep the window closed for more than a week nonstop as the odor never cleared before being 'added to.’” - Resident

“I feel if you make a choice to smoke that others shouldn't have to live with it. I get plugged up when I'm around it, and I don't find it right to make others uncomfortable in their home by dealing with others' smoke. Everyone agrees when they move into the smoke free, if they do not want to abide by it they should look elsewhere.” - Property Manager

“Because I have trouble breathing anywhere there is smoke, any kind of smoke.” - Resident

⁹ Respondents who identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian or Asian American, Native Hawai'ian or Pacific Islander, or Other, alone or in combination, were analyzed as one group due to small sample sizes among those groups.

“So many people with health issues. When I was going through chemo I hated that residents did not feel a need to follow the no smoking policy next to the building.” - Resident

“Secondhand smoke caused me to get sick often as a child; when you're living in shared living spaces like an apartment building, it is important to be respectful of your neighbors. This includes preventing upsetting smells like cigarette or marijuana smoke.” - Resident

Incentives (Property Managers Only)

The property managers surveyed indicated they would not be motivated to go smoke free by citywide incentives such as discounted rental license fees or special recognition.

*“I think some type of recognition would help promote/advertise our property.”
-Property Manager*

Recommendations

The findings from this survey highlight the importance of smoke-free housing policies to protect all Burnsville 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

- Promote smoke-free housing through city communications and programs, such as rental licensing.
- Adopt a smoke-free housing resolution or declaration to signal the City's support for smoke-free housing policies.
- Require property owners to disclose the building's smoking policy to prospective renters.
- Require new multi-unit housing construction in the city to have a smoke-free policy.
- Require all multi-unit rental 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 Email Invitation

Scroll down for Spanish. Scroll down for Somali. Scroll down for Portuguese.

Dear [property name] Residents,

You have an opportunity to receive a \$10 Target gift card for completing an online survey about smoke-free housing. Please see further information below from Live Smoke Free and click the link at the bottom to take the survey.

Please complete the survey by [date]. This survey is optional.

Survey Information

Dakota County Public Health Department (DCPH) and Live Smoke Free (LSF) are conducting a resident survey in collaboration with the City of Burnsville, 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.

You will receive your \$10 Target gift card within 1-3 weeks of completing the survey.

More information about this survey is available in this FAQ document. If you have any questions, please call: Jackie at 651-646-3005 or email jackie@ansrmn.org.

Sincerely,

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

Click here to start the survey.

Please do not share this link. This survey is intended for residents of [property name] only.

Appendix II – Resident Flyer Invitation

Dear [property name] Residents,

You have an opportunity to receive a **\$10 Target gift card** for completing an online survey about smoke-free housing. Please see further information below from Live Smoke Free and scan the link at the bottom to take the survey. **Please complete the survey by [date]. This survey is optional.**

Survey Information

Dakota County Public Health Department (DCPH) and Live Smoke Free (LSF) are conducting a resident survey in collaboration with the City of Burnsville, 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.

You will receive your \$10 Target gift card within 1-3 weeks of completing the survey. More information about this survey is available in the FAQ document. If you have any questions, please call: Jackie at 651-646-3005 or email jackie@ansrmn.org.

Sincerely,

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

Scan here to start the survey.

Please do not share this link. This survey is intended for residents of [property name] only.



← FAQ
<https://bit.ly/3BBQThU>

<https://forms.gle/xyv1ZJ8ZB9n3r4qs5>

Appendix III – 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 Burnsville 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 decisions 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?

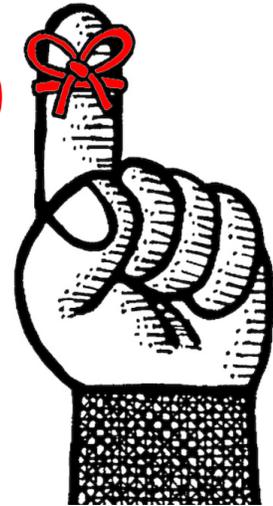
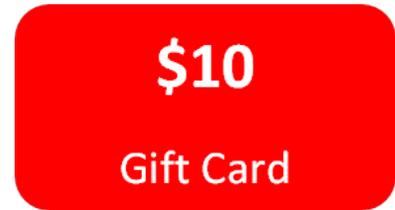
Your answers will be combined with all of the responses from your building. Your property manager will be given a summary of the response but they will not be able to identify your responses.

Why do I have to give my address and unit number at the end of the survey?

You only need to provide your address and unit number if you want the \$10 gift card. This information will NOT be shared with your property manager or anyone else. We will need your apartment number and address information for gift card distribution.

Appendix IV – Reminder Flier

Don't forget to complete the smoke-free housing survey by [date] to receive a \$10.00 gift card!



¡No olvide completar la encuesta de vivienda libre de humo antes del [fecha] para recibir una tarjeta de regalo de \$10.00!

Ha iloobin inaad dhammaystirto sahanka guryeynta ee bilaa qiiqa ah [taariikhda] si aad u hesho \$10.00 kaadhka hadiyadda!

Scan here to start the survey.

<https://forms.gle/xyv1ZJ8ZB9n3r4qs5>



Escanee aquí para comenzar la encuesta.

<https://forms.gle/GaVP8JJGCaatngEbZ>



Iskaan halkan si aad u bilawdo sahanka.

<https://forms.gle/magrm9XEzGAPVCsN8>



Appendix V – Resident Survey

Smoke-Free Housing Resident Survey

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

* Indicates required question

The Apartment That You Live In

1. 1. Are you the head of your household and the only person in your household completing this survey? (If you are not the head of your household or someone in your household has already completed this survey, please do not complete this survey.) *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes, I am the head of my household
 No

The Apartment That You Live In

2. 2. In total, how long have you lived in your current apartment building?

Mark only one oval per row.

	Less than 1 year	1-5 years	6-10 years	More than 10 years
Select one	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. 3. Are there children under the age of 18 living in your apartment?

Mark only one oval per row.

	No	Yes
Select one	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. 4. Are there adults over 65 (including yourself if applicable) living in your apartment?

Mark only one oval per row.

	No	Yes
Select one	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Smoking/Vaping Rules Inside Your Apartment:

5. 5. 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)?

Mark only one oval.

- Smoking is NOT allowed anywhere inside my apartment
- Smoking IS allowed anywhere in my apartment
- Smoking IS allowed in some places in my apartment

6. 6. Do you allow people, including yourself, to vape e-cigarettes in your apartment (not including decks, porches, patios, or garages)?

Mark only one oval.

- Vaping is NOT allowed anywhere inside my apartment
- Vaping IS allowed anywhere in my apartment
- Vaping IS allowed in some places in my apartment

Your Exposure to Tobacco Smoke:

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

Check all that apply.

	Everyday	A few times a week	A few times a month	A few times a year	Never
Select one	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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

Check all that apply.

	Everyday	A few times a week	A few times a month	A few times a year	Never
Select one	<input type="checkbox"/>				

9. 9. Have you reported tobacco (or other) smoke in your apartment to your property manager?

Mark only one oval per row.

	Yes	No	Does not apply to me
Select one	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. 9. (a). If No, why not?

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

Mark only one oval per row.

	Yes	No
Select one	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. 10. (a). If yes, what were the health problems?

13. 11. 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)
Check all that apply	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. 11. (a). If other, describe:

Smoking Rules Made by your Property Manager/Management Company:

15. 12. How familiar are you with your building's smoking rules?

Mark only one oval.

- Very familiar, I know where smoking is and is not allowed at my building
- Somewhat familiar, I have a general idea of where smoking is and is not allowed at my building
- Somewhat unfamiliar, I am unsure where smoking is and is not allowed at my building
- Not familiar, I do not know what my building's smoking rules are at all

16. Select the apartment building you live in *

Mark only one oval.

- Willow Pond *Skip to question 17*
- The Bluffs of Burnsville *Skip to question 19*
- Park Ridge Place *Skip to question 17*
- Heart of the City Townhomes *Skip to question 17*
- Shalimar Estates *Skip to question 19*
- Timber Ridge Townhomes *Skip to question 19*
- Dahcotah View Apartments *Skip to question 17*
- Burnsville Parkway Apartments *Skip to question 17*
- Stone Grove Apartments *Skip to question 19*

Your Experience With The Smoke-Free Policy

17. 14. Have you or anyone living in your apartment changed smoking behaviors since the building went smoke free? Check all that apply.

Check all that apply.

- 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
- No, I did not live here when the building went smoke free

18. 15. Have you or anyone living in your apartment changed vaping behaviors since the building went smoke free? Check all that apply.

Check all that apply.

- Yes, started vaping
- 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
- No, I did not live here when the building went smoke free

Skip to question 21

Your Thoughts About Smoke-Free Apartments (Smoking Permitted Building)

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

Mark only one oval.

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

20. 16. (a) Why or why not?

Your Thoughts About Smoke-Free Apartments (All)

21. 17. Would you support a citywide policy or ordinance requiring building owners to disclose to potential residents what the smoking policy is for the building prior to signing a lease?

Mark only one oval per row.

	Yes	No
Select one	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

22. 17.(a). Why or why not?

23. 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)

Mark only one oval per row.

	Yes	No
Select one	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

24. 18.(a). Why or why not?

Questions about You

25. 19. What is your age?

Mark only one oval per row.

	18-25	26-55	56-65	Over 65
Select age	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

26. 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
Check all that apply.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

27. 20.(a). If other _____

28. 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.

Mark only one oval.

- \$23,000 or less
- \$23,001-\$39,000
- \$39,001-\$55,000
- \$55,001-\$79,000
- \$79,001-\$100,000
- More than \$100,000

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

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

IMPORTANT: Complete this section to receive your \$10 Target gift card!

This information will be kept anonymous and will only be seen and used by Live Smoke Free in order to distribute gift cards. The survey should be completed by the head of household and only ONE gift card will be provided per apartment. If you do not provide your apartment number you will not receive a gift card but your responses will still be counted. Please be aware that this gift card is counted as income.

30. 23. What is your full address?

31. 24. What is your apartment number?

32. 25. What is your email address? (In case we need to deliver your gift card digitally)

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Appendix VI – Burnsville Fact Sheet

Going Smoke Free Matters in Burnsville

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

Burnsville

An estimated **36%** of multi-unit buildings in Burnsville 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 Burnsville.

“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 Burnsville residents
- Protect Burnsville 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 Burnsville

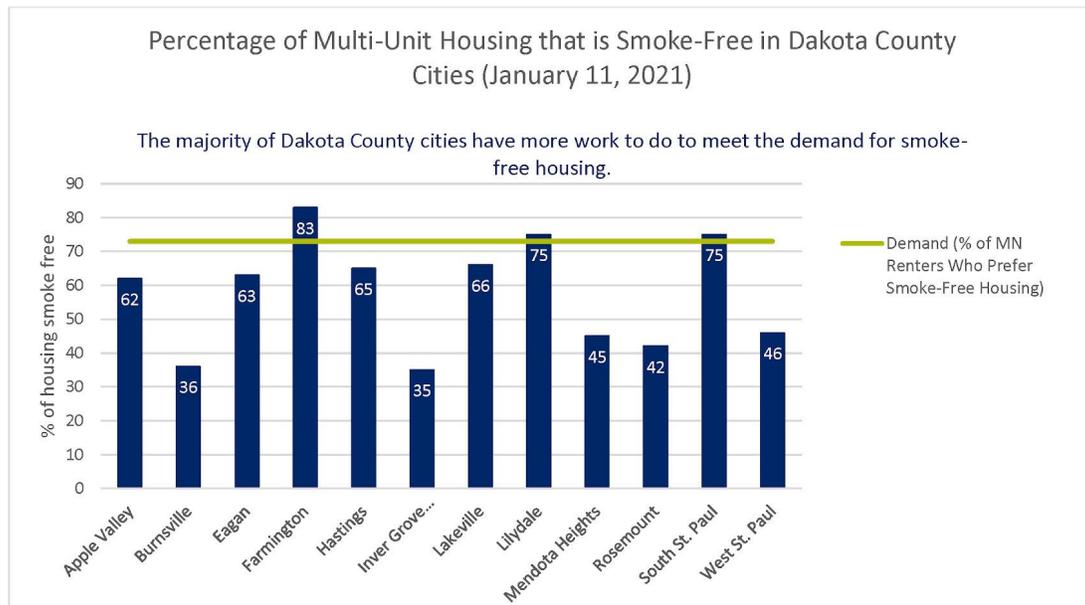
- Gather data about Burnsville residents’ exposure to secondhand smoke and support for smoke-free policies
- Utilize data to identify collaborative strategies to increase smoke-free housing opportunities in Burnsville
- Provide educational resources and implementation support to residents and property 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 Burnsville

In Minnesota, careless smoking is often the leading cause of fire fatalities year to year. Burnsville had 129 fires in 2019. These fires, combined with 7,156 non-fire related calls lead to a dollar loss of \$2,910,484 that year.⁸ According to the Burnsville Fire Department's 2021 Strategic Plan, historically, approximately half of fires in Burnsville occur in multi-family residential buildings.⁹ Strategies such as smoke-free housing initiatives could reduce these devastating fires.

Testimonial

"The main reason for having a smoke-free building is the maintenance cost savings, and that's it's easier not to have to deal with tenant complaints and safety concerns about smokers. But the indisputable benefit is our Ebenezer senior apartment community's objective to promote healthful and meaningful aging and the best possible quality of life."

Denise Bierle-Svec, Property Manager of Ebenezer's Ridge Point Apartments, Burnsville, MN

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

⁹ 2019 Fire in Minnesota, Minnesota State Fire Marshal, <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/sfm/mfirs/Documents/Fire%20in%20Minnesota/Fire-in-Minnesota-2019.pdf>

⁹ Burnsville Fire Department Strategic Plan, 2021, <https://www.burnsvillemn.gov/DocumentCenter/View/23868/Burnsville-Fire-Department-Strategic-Plan>

Contact Information

Dakota County Public Health - Kjirsten.Anderson@co.dakota.mn.us

Association for Nonsmokers - Minnesota, Live Smoke Free Program – jackie@ansrmn.org