

PREVALENCE OF SMOKE-FREE HOUSING POLICIES IN THE MINNEAPOLIS HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

In August 2021 the Minneapolis Health Department (MHD) and Live Smoke Free (LSF), a program of the Association for Nonsmokers - Minnesota, surveyed owners/managers of Minneapolis rental properties to gauge support for and understand access to low-income smoke-free housing. Respondents answered questions about their properties where rents are subsidized by Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs). The survey was sent to 1,126 owners/managers; there were 112 respondents (10% response rate). The survey was conducted in partnership with the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA). A full report can be found at www.mnsmokefreehousing.org.

WHAT IS THE HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM?

The HCV program provides federal housing subsidies to renters as a voucher that can be used to pay rent to private owners. In Minneapolis, the MPHA administers the HCV program.

PREVALENCE OF SMOKE-FREE POLICIES

Respondents reported that **28%** of the HCV properties represented in the survey **do not have smoke-free protections**.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Nearly 1/3** of HCV properties in this survey have **no smoke-free protections**.
- **Most** owners/managers in the HCV program **strongly support smoke-free housing**.
- Further research, outreach, and technical assistance to Minneapolis affordable housing property managers is needed.

SUPPORT FOR CITYWIDE SMOKE-FREE INITIATIVES



73%

Seventy-three percent support a citywide policy requiring property owners/managers to **disclose** the smoking policy to potential residents prior to lease signing.



63%

Sixty-three percent support a citywide policy requiring apartment buildings to have a smoke-free (no-smoking) policy that covers all indoor areas.



78%

Seventy-eight percent support some type of incentive to adopt a smoke-free policy.

