

# Support for Smoke-Free Housing Policies in Ramsey County

## Key Findings from a Survey of Ramsey County Renters

### Background

There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke yet in the United States, 1 in 3 renters is exposed to secondhand smoke in their home (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). In Fall 2018, Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health (SPRCPH) and the Association for Nonsmokers Minnesota's Live Smoke Free (LSF) program began reaching out to select multi-unit properties within the county (both smoke free and smoking permitted) to survey renters on the topic of smoke-free housing. The goal of the survey was to learn about smoking in apartments, what renters think about secondhand smoke and what they think about a smoke-free policy for their building and for properties citywide.

### Key Findings

A vast majority of all respondents don't allow smoking in their units including 97 percent in smoke-free properties and 86 percent in smoking-permitted properties (92% average).



- Almost half of respondents are exposed to secondhand smoke every day, a few times a year, a few times a month, or a few times a week. This includes 46 percent in smoke-free properties and 47 percent in smoking-permitted properties.
- Respondents with lower incomes or who identified as people of color were over-represented in smoking-permitted properties
- A majority of respondents surveyed (79%) support a smoke-free property-wide policy for their smoking-permitted property.

### Support for Citywide Smoke-Free Policies

- The majority of all respondents indicated that they would support a citywide ordinance requiring all multi-unit housing to be smoke free. This includes 84 percent in smoke-free properties and 72 percent in smoking-permitted properties.



A full report is available at <https://mnsmokefreehousing.org/ramsey-county-renters-support-citywide-smoke-free-housing/>