

Views on Smoke-Free Policies

2011 survey of licensed daycare providers in
Cottonwood, Jackson, and Redwood Counties

Family Services Network – Start Noticing, a coalition working to eliminate the harmful effects of tobacco use and exposure, especially among vulnerable youth, through community engagement, education, and policy implementation, received a Tobacco-Free Communities grant from the Minnesota Department of Health. Start Noticing contracted with Wilder Research to conduct research and evaluation as a part of this grant, including studying issues related to current tobacco use practices and policies, as well as attitudes about tobacco use practices and policies. This summary provides results of surveys conducted in the fall of 2011 with licensed daycare providers in Cottonwood, Jackson, and Redwood counties.

Study results will inform Start Noticing’s ongoing efforts to engage and educate its communities to promote smoke-free policies that protect vulnerable populations. While findings differ across counties and demographic sub-groups, this summary highlights combined data due to the small sample size. Please refer to the last page of this report for more information about study methods and demographics of study participants.

Overall perceptions

The study found strong support among licensed daycare providers for smoke-free policies. Of those who responded to the survey, the majority of licensed daycare providers:

- Believe licensed daycares should be smoke-free, even during hours of non-operation (92%).
- Think there is a risk of harm from cigarette smoke even if no one smokes in the home during business hours (88%).
- Believe “the risk of harm is always there once smoking is allowed in a home” (95%).

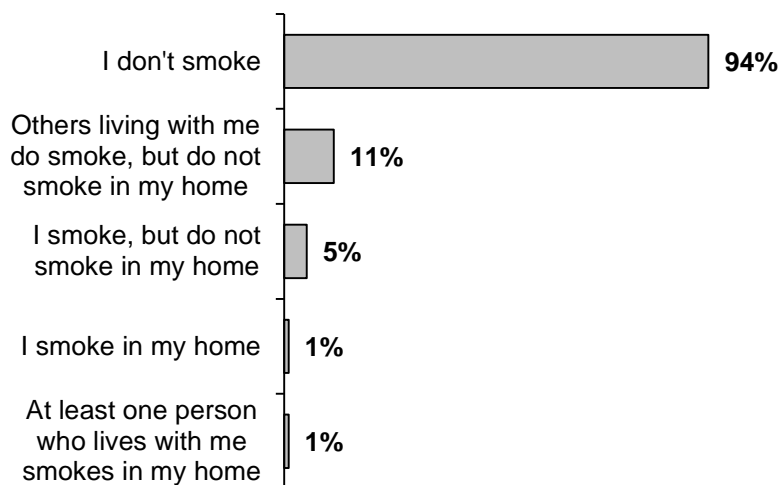
Potential issues to address when introducing smoke-free policies in licensed daycares in Cottonwood, Jackson, and Redwood counties include:

- Less awareness of the harms of thirdhand smoke than secondhand smoke among daycare providers.
- Over one-third of providers are not aware of current smoke-free policies that affect licensed daycares (34%).

Current tobacco smoke practices and policies

As illustrated in Table 1, the vast majority of daycare providers do not smoke at all (94%). Of the respondents who do smoke (6%), only one smokes in their home. Few live with smokers (11%) and only one person lives with someone who smokes inside their home.

1. Current smoking activity in home (n=80)

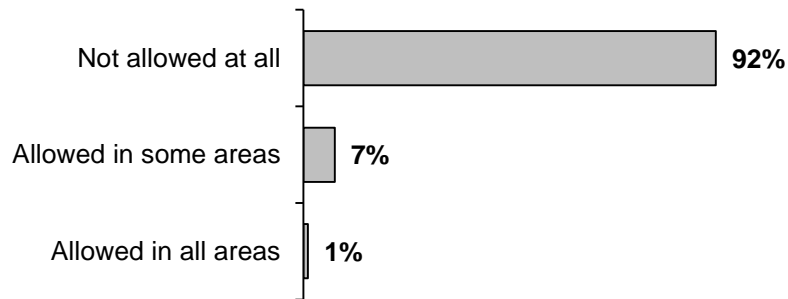


While most families enter and exit daycares through an outside door such as a main entrance (63%), some enter through the garage (24%) or through an enclosed porch/deck/patio (13%). With this in mind, most daycare providers typically prohibit smoking nearly everywhere (Table 2). Daycare providers are, however, most likely to allow smoking on patios, balconies, porches, outdoor steps (entryways) and/or decks (where families are least likely to enter and exit). Additionally, slightly over half of daycare providers transport the children they care for in a vehicle (56%). Only a couple of daycare providers ever smoke or allow someone else to smoke in this vehicle (3%).

Attitudes about tobacco smoke practices and policies

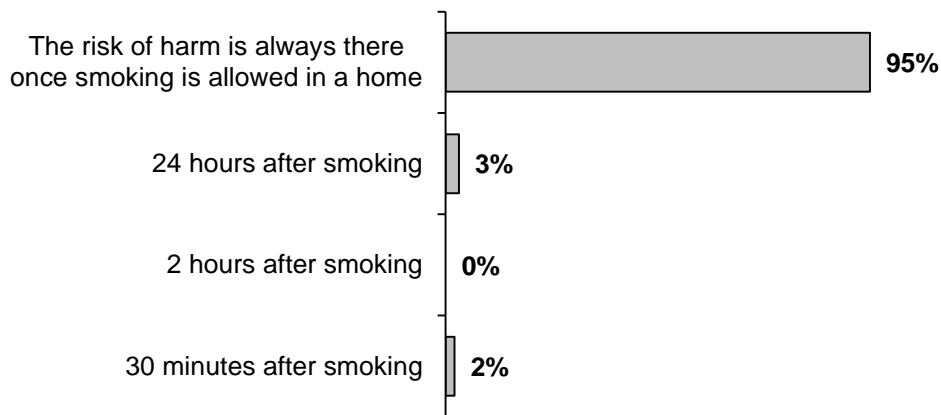
Daycare providers' responses were strongly supportive of smoke-free policies. The vast majority of daycare providers believe that even during hours of non-operation, smoking should not be allowed at all (92%).

2. “During hours of non-operation in licensed daycares, do you think smoking should be...”

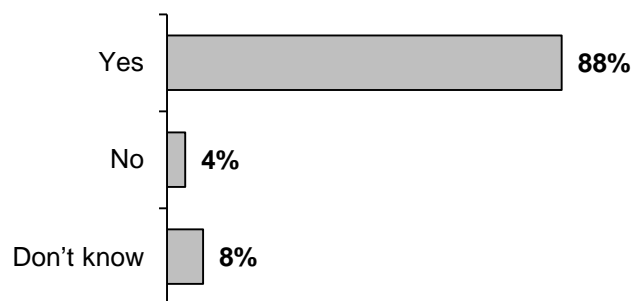


Daycares were then asked a variety of questions related to their attitude and awareness of secondhand smoke, thirdhand smoke, and its associated risks. Most daycare providers are aware of the risks caused by secondhand smoke. When asked when the harm from secondhand smoke ends, almost all providers answered “the risk of harm is always there once smoking is allowed in a home” (95%). Only a few thought harm ended 24 hours after smoking (3%) or 30 minutes after smoking (2%). Most also believe there is a risk of harm from cigarette smoke even if no one smokes in the home during business hours (88%). Please see Table 3 and 4.

3. “In a home, do you think the harm caused by secondhand smoke ends...” (n=101)



4. “Do you think there is a risk of harm from cigarette smoke even if no one smokes in the home during business hours?” (n=101)



Most daycare providers also strongly agree secondhand smoke is harmful to their health (92%) as well as an annoyance (81%). Daycare providers are slightly less aware of the harm caused by thirdhand smoke, however; slightly more than two-thirds knew about thirdhand smoke prior to the survey (69%). Please see Table 5 and 6.

5. Attitudes about secondhand smoke

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
It could be harmful to my health.	92%	7%	0%	1%
It is an annoyance	81%	16%	3%	1%
It is not something I worry about	14%	13%	13%	60%

6. Attitudes about thirdhand smoke

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
It could be harmful to my health.	80%	17%	3%	0%
It is an annoyance	82%	16%	3%	0%
It is not something I worry about	9%	22%	11%	58%

Study methods

Licensed daycare providers in Cottonwood, Jackson, and Redwood counties were invited to complete surveys about tobacco smoke practices and policies. Start Noticing mailed survey packets to providers and followed up with reminder notices two weeks later. Providers were also invited to complete the survey over the phone. Start Noticing provided a drawing for a \$75 grocery gift card in each county as incentive for participation. The surveys were mailed to 127 licensed daycare providers and 103 were completed.

Wilder Research provided consultation, developed and modified data collection instruments, oversaw the data collection process, provided data entry, analysis, and reporting.

Demographics

7. Licensed daycare providers' county of residence (n=103)

Cottonwood	Jackson	Redwood
26%	30%	44%

8. Day care provider demographics

Gender	n=103
Female	100%
Male	0%
Age	n=103
18-25	3%
26-64	93%
65+	4%
Race/Ethnicity*	n=103
Caucasian	99%
Of Color	2%
African/African American/Black	0%
American Indian/Native American	0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0%
Hispanic/Latino	2%
Other	0%
Household size	n=102
1	10%
2	18%
3-4	43%
5+	27%

Length of time lived as licensed daycare provider	n=103
6 months or less	4%
1-2 years	11%
3-4 years	9%
5+ years	77%
Number of children five years or younger living in home	n=100
No children	65%
1 child	20%
2 children	10%
3+ children	5%
Number of children 6 to 17 years old living in home	n=102
No children	52%
1 child	18%
2 children	21%
3+ children	9%
Number of children provided care at daycare	n=103
1-5	16%
6-10	50%
11-15	30%
16+*	5%

*Respondents were asked to check all that apply.

**Maximum number of children reportedly provided care at any single daycare is 30 children

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For more information: This summary presents highlights from surveys conducted in 2011 in Cottonwood, Jackson, and Redwood County. For more information about this report, contact Denise Huynh at Wilder Research, 651-280-2012.

Author: Denise Huynh, March 2012