

Views on Smoke-Free Policies

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

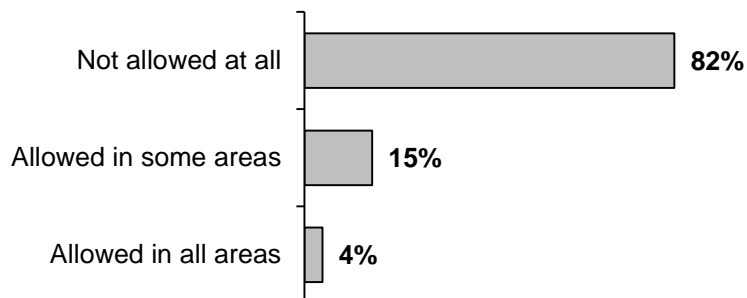
Family Services Network – Start Noticing, a coalition working to eliminate the harmful effects of tobacco use and exposure, especially among vulnerable youth, through community engagement, education, and policy implementation, received a Tobacco-Free Communities grant from the Minnesota Department of Health. This summary provides results of surveys conducted in the fall of 2011 with foster care providers in Cottonwood, Jackson, and Redwood counties. All providers are licensed by the Department of Human Services except one provider who is licensed by Lutheran Social Services. Study results will inform Start Noticing’s ongoing efforts to engage and educate its communities to promote smoke-free policies that protect vulnerable populations.

Overall perceptions

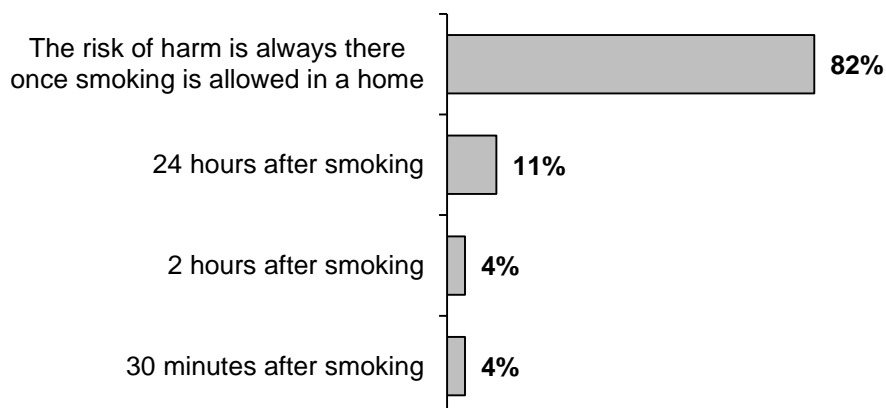
The study found strong support among licensed foster care providers for smoke-free policies. Of those who responded to the survey, the majority of licensed foster care providers:

- Believe smoking should not be allowed at all in licensed foster care homes (82%).
- Believe “the risk of harm is always there once smoking is allowed in a home” (82%).

1. “In licensed foster care homes, do you think that smoking should be...”



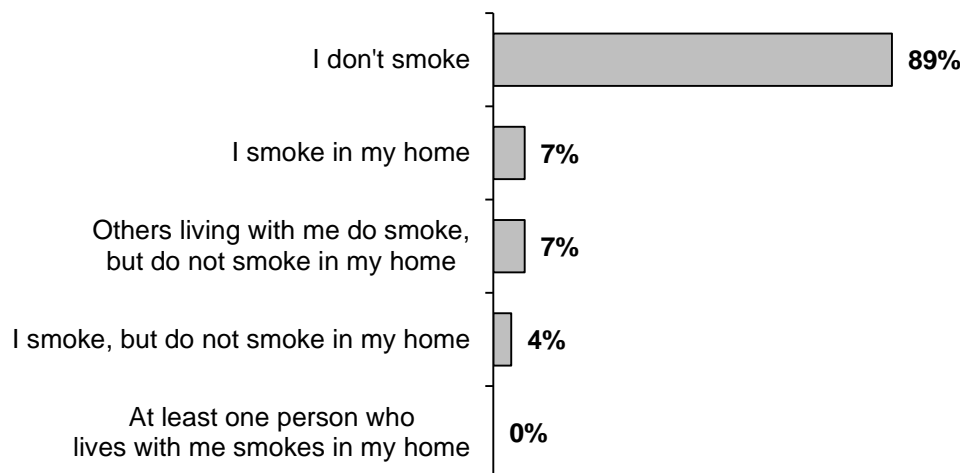
2. “In a home, do you think the harm caused by secondhand smoke ends...” (n=101)



3. Attitudes about thirdhand smoke

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
It could be harmful to my health.	64%	28%	4%	4%
It is an annoyance	69%	23%	0%	8%
It is not something I worry about	8%	21%	25%	46%

4. Current smoking activity in home (n=27)



Study methods

Licensed foster care 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.

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

Cottonwood	Jackson	Redwood
26%	22%	52%

Start Noticing provided a drawing for a \$75 grocery gift card in each county as incentive for participation. The surveys were mailed to 44 licensed foster care providers and 26 were completed. Wilder Research provided consultation, developed and modified data collection instruments, oversaw the data collection process, provided data entry, analysis, and reporting.