

## Views on Smoke-Free Policies

2011 survey of residents living in income based housing 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 residents living in income based housing 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. Six key informant interviews were also conducted with managers or owners of income based housing.

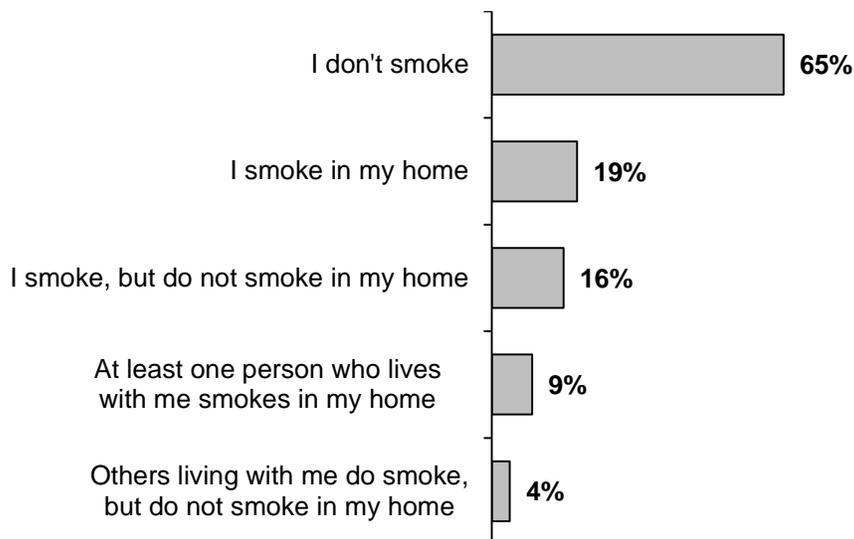
### Overall perceptions

The study found strong support for smoke-free policies from owners or managers of income based housing and moderate support from residents. Of those who responded to the survey:

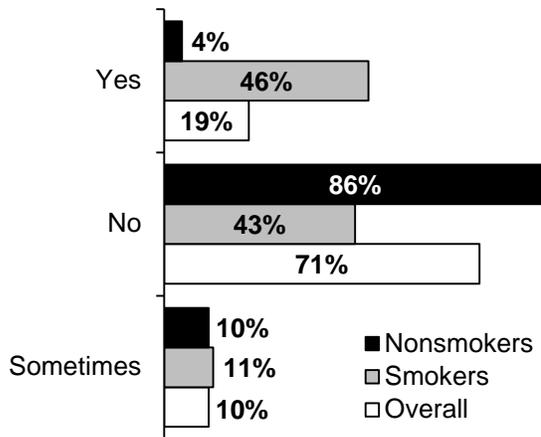
- Most residents (71%) do not allow anyone to smoke in their homes. Only about half (46%) of residents who are smokers themselves allow smoking in their apartment.
- All managers and owners recognize the health benefits of implementing smoke-free policies and also believe smoke-free policies would be financially beneficial because there would be less property damage related to smoking.

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

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## 2. “Do you allow anyone to smoke in your home, including guests?” (n=79)



Potential issues to address when introducing smoke-free policies in income based housing in Cottonwood, Jackson, and Redwood counties include:

- Managers and owners are concerned residents’ guests may not comply with the smoke-free policies.
- Managers and owners are concerned with occupancy rates.

### Study methods

Adult residents (18+) from income based housing in Cottonwood, Jackson, and Redwood counties were invited to complete surveys about tobacco smoke practices and policies. Start Noticing mailed survey packets to residents and followed up with reminder notices two weeks later. Residents were also invited to complete the survey over the phone.

## 3. Income based housing respondents’ county of residence (n=80)

Cottonwood	Jackson	Redwood
44%	16%	20%

Start Noticing provided a drawing for a \$75 grocery gift card in each county as incentive for participation. The surveys were mailed to 385 residents and 80 responses were completed. Interviewers from Start Noticing also conducted semi-structured phone interviews with two owners or managers of income based housing authorities from each county.

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

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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.

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