

# Smoke-Free Common Interest Communities: Results of a Survey of Minnesota Owner-Occupants



In 2009, the Center for Energy and Environment, in partnership with the Public Health Law Center and the Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota, surveyed a random sample of 495 owner-occupants living in common interest communities (condos, townhomes, and other owner-occupied attached housing) in Minnesota. This survey was conducted in order to determine:

- How often owner-occupants are being exposed to tobacco smoke in their housing unit; and
- How interested owner-occupants are in smoke-free housing.

Survey results indicated that while there was a great deal of interest in smoke-free common interest communities, few smoke-free common interest communities currently exist in Minnesota.

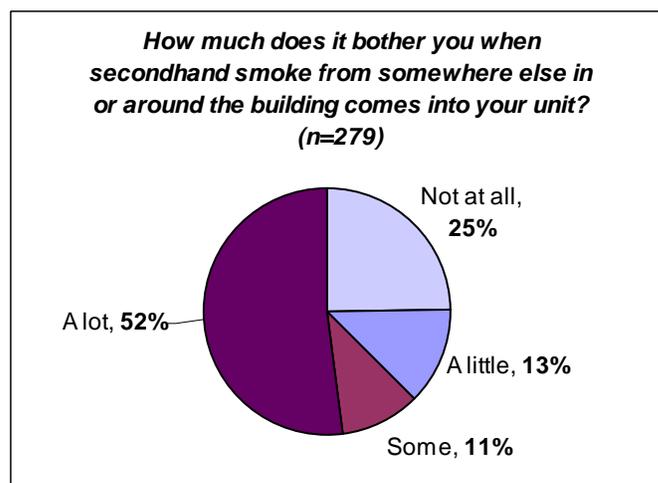
## Owner-Occupants Are Bothered by Tobacco Smoke

When asked: "In the past *six months*, how often has tobacco smoke from somewhere else in or around the building come into your unit?"

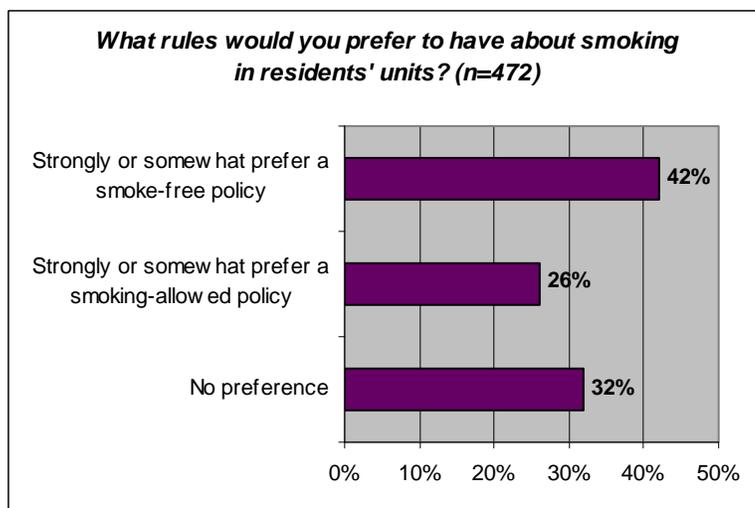
- Nearly 1 in 6 owner-occupants responded "Sometimes," "Often," or "Most of the time."

Among owner-occupants who had *ever* experienced tobacco smoke incursion:

- The majority of owner-occupants (52%) reported being bothered "A lot" by tobacco smoke that entered their unit from somewhere else in or around the building.
- 29% reported being bothered "A lot" by tobacco smoke that entered their personal patio, deck, or balcony from somewhere else in or around the building.



## Many Owner-Occupants Prefer Smoke-Free Buildings



When asked: "What rules would you prefer to have about smoking?"

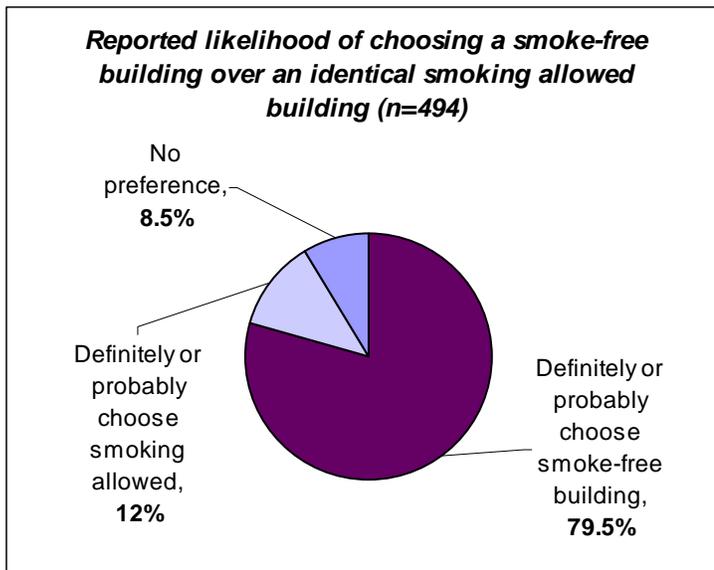
- 42% of owner-occupants reported "Strongly" or "Somewhat" preferring a smoke-free policy for residents' units.
- 40% of owner-occupants reported "Strongly" or "Somewhat" preferring a smoke-free policy for residents' patios, balconies, or decks.

Although 42% of owner-occupants indicated preferring a smoke-free policy for residents' units, only 6% of owner-occupants indicated that their association had such a policy.

## Most Owner-Occupants Don't Allow Smoking In Unit

- 80% of owner-occupants never allow smoking in their unit; only 12% reported always allowing smoking in their unit.
- Although most owner-occupants do not smoke or allow smoking in their units, the overwhelming majority of respondents (77%) reported that their common interest community allows smoking in residents' units.

## Majority of Owner-Occupants Are Likely to Choose Smoke-Free Buildings



- Nearly 80% of owner-occupants reported that they would "Definitely" (63%) or "Probably" (16.5%) choose a smoke-free building over an identical smoking allowed building.
- Only 12% of owner-occupants reported that they would "Definitely" (7%) or "Probably" (5%) chose a smoking allowed building over an identical smoke-free building.



## Many Owner-Occupants Are Willing to Pay More for a Smoke-Free Community

When asked if they were willing to pay more for a unit in a smoke-free building over a unit in smoking allowed building, all other things being equal:

- 34% of owner-occupants reported being willing to pay 1%- 5% more.
- 8% of owner-occupants reported being willing to pay 6% - 10% more.
- 4% of owner-occupants reported being willing to pay more than 10% more.

## Smoke-Free Policy Resources Are Available

- More and more common interest communities are adopting smoke-free policies.
- For sample policy documents and more information, go to: [www.mnsmokefreehousing.org](http://www.mnsmokefreehousing.org)

This research was conducted by:



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