

Minneapolis Three-Question Smoke-Free Housing Survey Summary

October 2023

Executive Summary

In 2023, Live Smoke Free (LSF), a program of the Association for Nonsmokers - Minnesota, and the Minneapolis Health Department (MHD) attended six community events to conduct a short survey of Minneapolis residents about smoke-free housing. This data will inform LSF and MHD on potential citywide smoke-free housing strategies/policies.

Minneapolis Multi-Unit Housing Residency

Of the 175 total responses, 89% were from Minneapolis residents. Of those who identified as Minneapolis residents (156), 60% identified as multi-unit housing residents. Fifty-four percent (54%) of the total responses were from Minneapolis multi-unit housing residents.

Perspectives on Smoke-Free Housing

Eighty-nine percent (89%) of Minneapolis residents responded that they do not believe smoking should be allowed in multi-unit housing. Nine percent (9%) were unsure, 6% said smoking should be allowed in multi-unit housing, and 2% did not answer the question.

Rationale for Not Allowing Smoking in Multi-Unit Housing

When asked why they thought smoking should or should not be allowed in multi-unit housing, most Minneapolis respondents cited concerns about secondhand smoke, health, safety of children, fire risk, and the impact on others.

Discussion and Recommendations

Overall, Minneapolis residents who participated in this survey showed strong support for smoke-free housing and awareness of the harmful effects of secondhand smoke on themselves and others. This level of support is similar (and perhaps even stronger) to that seen in other Twin Cities metro communities (<https://mnsmokefreehousing.org/policy-makers/>). Given this, LSF and MHD intend to solicit more detailed input from Minneapolis multi-unit housing residents by conducting listening sessions with specific community groups in 2023-2024. Once completed, these complementary datasets will allow LSF and MHD to make informed decisions about appropriate citywide strategies to protect Minneapolis multi-unit housing residents from secondhand smoke exposure in their homes.

Background

From June to October of 2023, LSF and MHD gathered community input on smoke-free housing via a short survey. This survey is one step in a multi-step, multi-year community engagement process to inform MHD’s smoke-free housing work. The survey was preceded by a series of key informant interviews held in 2022 and will be followed by a series of community listening sessions in 2023 and 2024. Community data and input will be used to guide LSF and MHD on advanced citywide strategies to protect multi-unit housing residents from secondhand smoke exposure in their homes.

Survey Development and Implementation

This short survey as a tool for community engagement was developed based on feedback from the Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) team. NCR also provided guidance on community events where LSF and MHD would be able to engage with diverse community groups. The



survey was conducted at various community events taking place in Minneapolis from May 2023 - October 2023. The survey was also promoted via the University of Minnesota’s Office of Off Campus Living newsletter.

Survey participants could complete the survey using tablet or mobile device, by filling out a paper survey, or by verbally sharing their answers with LSF or MHD staff. All participants were offered a free bamboo toothbrush with the message “Everyone deserves a smoke-free home,” as a thank-you for completing the survey. An additional incentive was promoted from May - August; participants who completed the survey during that time were eligible to win a \$250 Spin scooter ride credit.

Pictured upper left: LSF and Wellshare International staff at Jazz Fest.

Pictured upper right: MHD and LSF staff at Lyndale Open Streets.

Community Events

Event Name	Event Location	Date	Number of Surveys Collected
Minneapolis Community Connections	Minneapolis Convention Center	June 10, 2023	22

Conference			
Jazz Fest (in partnership with Wellshare International)	Luxton Park, Southeast Minneapolis	August 9, 2023	37
Urban League Family Day	North Minneapolis (Plymouth Avenue)	August 26, 2023	20
Four Sisters Farmers Market	Phillips (Franklin Avenue)	September 28, 2023	24
Lyndale Open Streets	South Minneapolis	October 8, 2023	48
Renter's Rights Forum	Northeast Minneapolis	October 11, 2023	19
U of M Office of Off Campus Living newsletter	University of Minnesota	September 21 - October 15, 2023	5
Total Responses			175

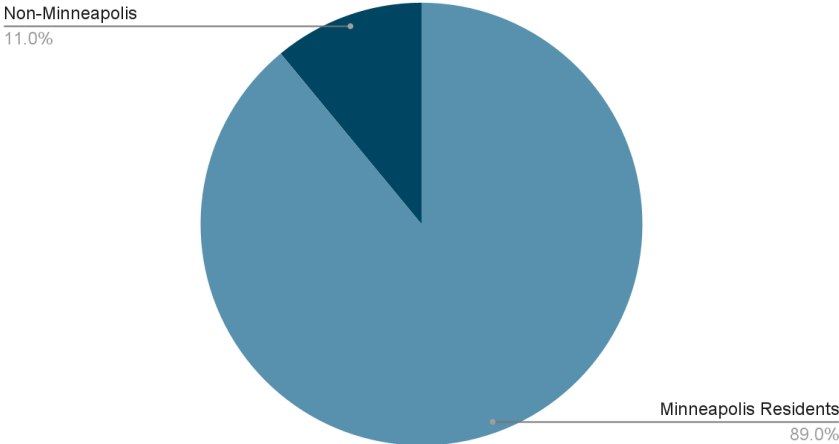
Results

Survey data was entered into Survey Monkey for analysis.

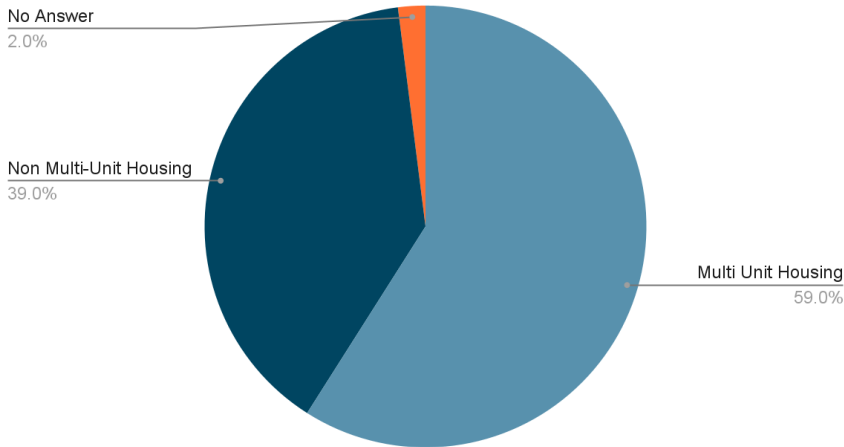
Overall Results

These results reflect all survey responses, including those from non-Minneapolis residents. (n=175)

Minneapolis Residency

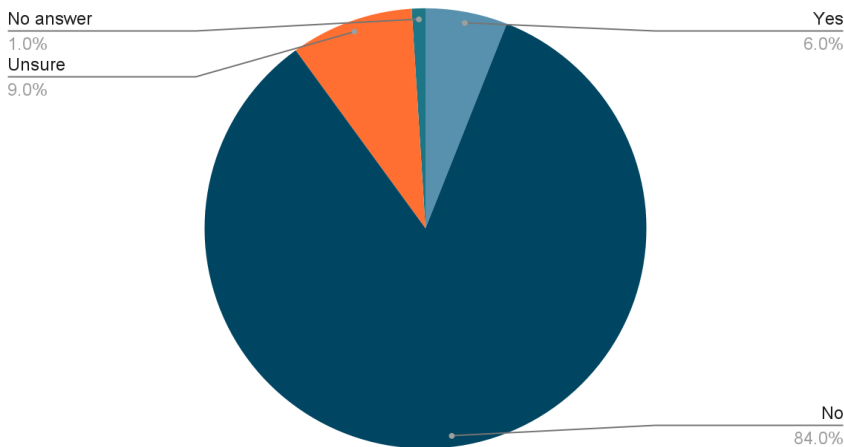


Multi-Unit Housing Residency



Note: Those that did not answer the question self-identified as unhoused at present.

Should smoking be allowed in multi-unit housing?



Why do you think smoking should or should not be allowed in multi-unit housing? (+n indicates number of similar responses)

Yes: Smoking should be allowed	No: Smoking should not be allowed	Unsure
Because I smoke +1	secondhand smoke +29	a person should have control over their own home +1
Depending on how much and what type	it's a health issue +20	cannabis is okay but tobacco is not
if you smoke and so do others, it should be okay	affects others' health +16	depends on what kind of smoking

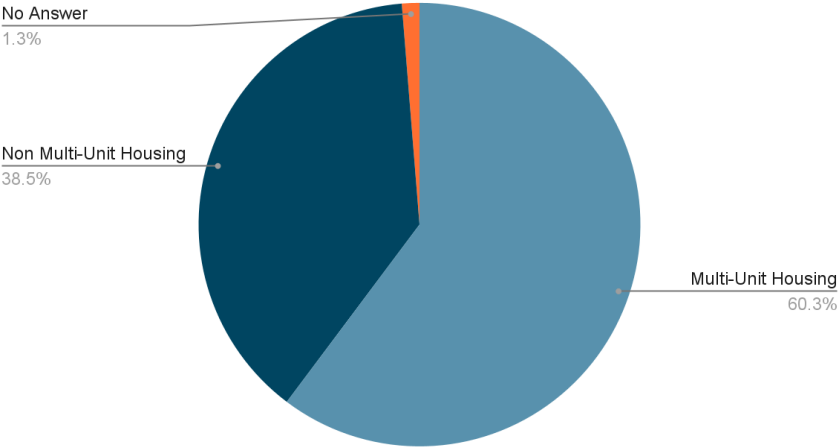
it should be up to the property manager and not for the city to dictate	fire hazard +10	I don't like secondhand tobacco but I have seen no data around weed
it's a personal decision	it's not healthy +10	if it doesn't affect me, its fine
People are paying rent and should be able to do what they want	safety of kids +9	if people live in their own condo - they should be able to do what they want
privacy concerns and discrimination on how it is enforced	smoking smells bad +9	if the owner doesn't want it, people should listen
	impacts others in nearby units +8	in your own unit -> not in public
	allergic to it +2	legalization of marijuana
	Damages unit/furniture +2	people smoke for their own reasons but probably shouldn't among minors
	I don't like smoke +2	personal freedom for the place they are paying for
	elders' health +1	
	Family member smoked +1	
	I don't smoke +1	
	A person can choose whether to smoke but can't choose whether to breathe!	
	because of the smoke	
	Because you are subjecting others to smoke who may not have other options because of the cost of living	
	community health requires everyone's help	
	I am a smoker but I smoke outside - trying to quit	
	I dislike cigarettes	
	I don't care for it	
	I don't think anyone should smoke anywhere	
	I don't want cannabis in my house	
	I have health issues and get triggered by smoke	
	I never smoked and I would appreciate	

	more smoke-free spaces	
	I've worked with individuals with respiratory illness, etc.	
	it's an annoyance	
	one person shouldn't be able to affect others' health	
	Public and shared living buildings shouldn't allow smoking indoors	
	respect for others	
	those not wanting to be exposed to smoke should be able to have the living area they pay for including common areas free of smoke	
	too much trouble for the property owner	

Minneapolis-Specific Results

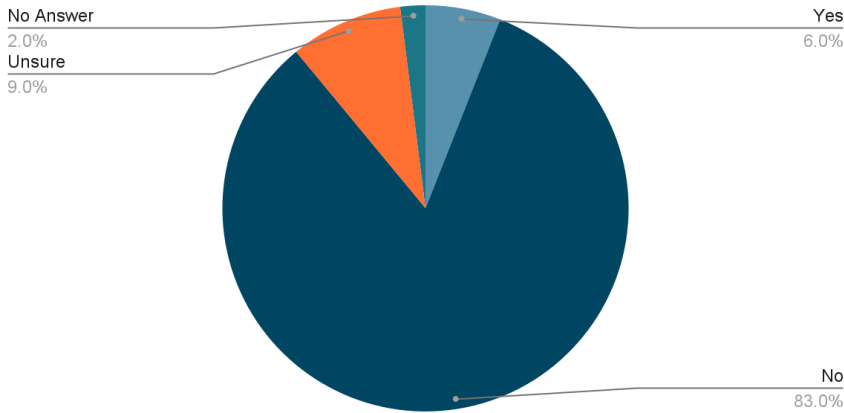
These results reflect responses from Minneapolis residents only. (n=156)

Multi-Unit Housing Residency (Minneapolis Only)



Note: Those that did not answer the question self-identified as unhoused at present.

Should smoking be allowed in multi-unit housing? (Minneapolis only)



Why do you think smoking should or should not be allowed in multi-unit housing? (+n indicates number of similar responses)

Yes: Smoking should be allowed	No: Smoking should not be allowed	Unsure
Because I smoke	secondhand smoke +18	a person should have control over their own home
Because it is a personal decision	affects others' health +11	cannabis is okay but tobacco is not
Because people are paying rent and should be able to do what they want	safety of kids +9	Depends on what kind of smoking
Cause if you smoke and so does others smoke it should be ok	it's a health issue +6	I do not like secondhand tobacco but I have seen no data around weed.
If they're responsible and have an exhaust fan available, they'll use it. I think yes depends on how much smoke and what type.	fire hazard +5	If it doesn't affect me it's fine
it should be up to the property owner/manager. do not want the city to dictate	it's not healthy +5	

privacy concerns and discrimination on how it is enforced	Impacts others in nearby units +3	
	it smells bad +2	
	damages unit/furniture +1	
	I don't smoke +1	
	a person can choose whether to smoke but can't choose whether to breathe!	
	allergic to it	
	Because you are subjecting others to smoke who may not have other options because of the cost of living.	
	elders' health	
	family members smoked	
	I am a smoker but I smoke outside - trying to quit	
	I dislike cigarettes	
	I don't think anyone should smoke anywhere	
	I have health issues and get triggered by smoke	
	I never smoked and I would appreciate more smoke-free spaces	
	Public and shared living buildings shouldn't allow smoking indoors	
	Respect for others	

Interest in participating in an informational interview on smoke-free housing (Minneapolis only)	
Yes	27
Maybe	16
No	52

Select Quotes

In Support of Smoke-Free Housing

“Smoke and the harm it can cause can't be fully contained within an enclosed smoking area. As soon as someone goes in or out the harms including smell can escape. Those not wanting to be exposed to smoke should be able to have the living area they pay for including common areas free of smoke.”

“I'm opposed to allowing smoking in confined spaces that impact people beyond the smoker. A smoker's right to smoke ends when they impact others in their own home.”

“No smoking should be allowed in the buildings for kid's safety reasons.”

“Tobacco smoking leads to preventable negative health outcomes. Secondhand smoke exposure does so also.”

“Smoke has a tendency to seep into other units. I have asthma and cigarette smoke affects my ability to breathe. It's also a fire hazard.”

Opposed to Smoke-Free Housing

“Because it is a personal decision.”

“It should be up to the property owner/manager. I do not want the city to dictate.”

“If they're responsible and have an exhaust fan available, they'll use it. I think yes depends on how much smoke and what type.”

“Privacy concerns. Discrimination on how it is enforced.”

Appendix



3-Question Minneapolis Multi-Unit Housing Resident Survey 2023

Introduction

The Minneapolis Health Department (MHD) and Live Smoke Free (LSF) are conducting a survey that asks questions of Minneapolis adults who live in apartments and other buildings with more than one unit (such as a duplex, townhome, or condo). We are interested in learning what you think about smoke-free policies.

Any information you provide will be kept **completely anonymous** and will be used to inform the city about ways to promote smoke-free air in multi-unit housing. A report will be available at www.mnsmokefreehousing.org upon completion of the project.

This survey takes approximately 3 minutes to complete.

1. Do you live in Minneapolis?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

2. Do you live in an apartment or a building with more than one unit such as a duplex, townhome, or condo (see examples below)?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure



3. Do you think smoking should be allowed in buildings with more than one unit.
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

Turn over for OPTIONAL BONUS QUESTION

4. OPTIONAL BONUS QUESTION! Why did you answer the previous question the way you did?

5. Are you interested in participating in an informational interview about your experience with smoking in multi-unit housing?
- Yes, I am interested, and it is okay to contact me with more information
 - Unsure, but it is okay to contact me with more information
 - No thanks

6. Please enter your phone number or email address if you answered "Yes" to #5 above.