



Smokefree Air For Everyone (S.A.F.E.)

Encouraging smokefree environments where people live, work and play

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California Survey 2004 Shows Apartment Residents Want Regulation of Drifting Tobacco Smoke

Renters throughout California want no smoking sections in their apartment complexes according to results from a statewide survey commissioned by the American Lung Association of California's Center for Tobacco Policy.

The telephone survey of 602 apartment residents throughout California found that

- 46% of respondents had experienced secondhand smoke drifting into their own apartment.
- 59% said they believe that secondhand smoke can drift from one apartment to another in an apartment building.
- 72% said they believe that secondhand smoke can drift into an apartment unit from outside.
- **69% of respondents favored regulations requiring all apartment buildings to offer non-smoking sections where all apartments, patios and balconies in that section were non-smoking.**

Support for non-smoking sections was even higher among the 14% of respondents who live in subsidized, affordable housing.

Thirty-nine percent of respondents said they would prefer to live in an apartment building where smoking is not allowed anywhere, and 43% said they would prefer to live in an apartment building which has separate non-smoking and smoking areas. (total: 82%)

- 90% of respondents agreed that tobacco smoke is harmful to people who inhale it.
- 61% of respondents favored a law requiring landlords to inform new tenants if there is a tobacco-user in the apartment adjacent to the one they are about to rent.

Twenty-five percent of respondents said that they know of someone living in their apartment building with chronic heart or lung disease such as asthma or emphysema.

Respondents said if there is a law limiting smoking in apartments and a tenant signs a lease agreeing not to smoking in a non-smoking unit, and then repeatedly violates that lease, the tenant definitely should (43%) or probably should (27%) be evicted.

- 48% of respondents said that the owner or manager lives on the premises.
- 74% said the owner or manager listens to concerns and is generally responsive.
- 73% said the owner or manager usually enforces the rules and keeps order.

Survey was conducted by Goodwin-Simon Strategic Research and has a 4% margin of error at a 95% confidence level. The survey was funded by Proposition 99. (Date: September, 2004)