

LATINO RENTERS SURVEY KEY MESSAGES

- Despite the fact that nearly all Latinos ban smoking in their homes, the first-ever statewide survey of Latino renters showed high rates of exposure to secondhand smoke in multi-unit housing, according to survey results released by the Hispanic/Latino Tobacco Education Partnership and Center for Tobacco Policy and Organizing.
- The survey results are announced on the heels of the United States Surgeon General's report that found there is **no safe level** of exposure to secondhand smoke. It also found that there is overwhelming scientific evidence that secondhand smoke is a toxic air pollutant and poses a significant risk to human health, causing tens of thousands of deaths each year in the United States.
- With home ownership becoming less attainable every year in California, it is important that protection from secondhand smoke in the home not be an exclusive right of homeowners.
- Overall, Latinos are less likely to smoke, are less tolerant of secondhand smoke, and they feel strongly about the reasons to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Specifically, the telephone survey of 409 Latino adult renters in California found that 63 percent of respondents have experienced secondhand smoke drifting into their apartment, compared to 46 percent of all renters, while 95 percent of Latino tenants report banning smoking in the home.
- There is strong support for a law requiring all apartment buildings to offer non-smoking sections: 82 percent of Latinos support a law requiring a section of apartments, patios and balconies to be smoke-free. This would be similar to the way that hotels offer non-smoking floors.
- Protecting the health of children, giving non-smokers the right to breathe clean air, and preventing odors and messes were listed as important reasons for smoke-free housing preferences by 89 percent of Latinos surveyed.
- Eighty-five percent would support a law limiting smoking in outdoor common areas, compared to 61 percent of all renters and 67 percent of apartment owners and managers.

- Ninety-seven percent of the surveys were conducted in Spanish.
- Landlords and managers of multi-unit housing should be made aware that there is a growing need for smoke-free housing by all renters, including Latinos, and that creating smoke-free housing is a smart investment.
- It is legal for landlords and managers to designate an entire building, specific units or common areas as smoke-free. There is no constitutional or legal right to smoke.
- Smoking increases property maintenance and repair costs. Smoking damages carpets, drapes and paint with odors and burns. Nicotine leaves yellow stains on walls, cabinets, fabrics and fixtures.
- Tenants, managers, and apartment owners can receive “*Action Steps For Tenants And Landlords to Deal with Drifting Tobacco Smoke*” by visiting www.Center4TobaccoPolicy.org or www.hlpartnership.org

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