



Apartment Residents Want Regulation of Drifting Tobacco Smoke



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



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 the apartments, patios and balconies in that section were non-smoking.



39% 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%)



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



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 smoker in the apartment next door to the one they are about to rent.



25% 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 smoke 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 commissioned by American Lung Association's Center for Tobacco Policy and Organizing. It 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.



Survey available from Smokefree Apartment House Registry, 818/363-4220.



www.smokefreeapartments.org

