

Northwest Indian Housing Survey on Smoking Policies

Final Results - April 2011

Background:

Seventeen members of the Northwest Indian Housing Association members participated in a recent survey about No-Smoking policies. Participants included one tribal housing authority from Alaska, two from Idaho, four from Oregon and ten from Washington. As an incentive, there was a drawing for \$50 amazon.com gift certificate among those who completed the survey and provided contact information.

Summary of Survey Results

Members opinions and smoking status:

- 94% think secondhand smoke is a health hazard
- 71% think no-smoking policies are desirable for tribal housing, 12% not sure
- 76.5% of respondents are non-smokers, 23.5% smokers

Heard complaints about drifting smoke from: (10 respondents; multiple responses tabulated)

Residents - 90% Professional staff - 50% Maintenance staff - 30%

TRENDS toward adopting no-smoking rules:

- 18% say the tribal housing program they manage currently has rules prohibiting smoking
- 7% have increased the number of rental units covered by no-smoking rules in past few years
- 50% expect number of rental units covered by no-smoking rules to increase in next few years

Where NWIHA members are IN THE PROCESS of adopting no-smoking rules:

(16 respondents, multiple responses tabulated)

- Already implemented no-smoking rules on at least one property - 13%
- A no-smoking policy will be going into effect within the next 12 months on at least one property - 6%
- Conducting or have conducted resident survey - 19%
- Thinking about moving ahead - 19%
- Thought about it but not yet ready - 56%
- Haven't thought about it - 19%

If your agency wanted to implement a no-smoking policy, what would help in moving forward?

(14 respondents, multiple responses tabulated)

- Understanding the legality of no-smoking policies - 64%
- Sample forms and legal language - 93%
- An outline of steps to move forward - 79%
- Tailoring policies for indoor versus outdoor entrances - 43%
- Help in conducting a resident survey to determine people's preferences - 36%
- Draft articles for community newsletters - 36%
- Web-based handouts for owners on the subject - 21%

