

# Smoke-Free Public Housing Policies in Nebraska

Survey Date: 2015  
Report Date: 2016

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health  
Tobacco Free Nebraska

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## Executive Summary

In 2015, a survey was conducted with directors of public housing agencies in Nebraska to assess the current status of smoke-free policies in their facilities and perceived benefits and obstacles of smoke-free policies. The 2015 administration is a follow-up survey from a similar study conducted in 2010 by DHHS Tobacco Free Nebraska.<sup>1</sup> In 2015, a total of 108 questionnaires were distributed and 65 were returned completed. This represents a 60.2% response rate, a meaningful increase from the 42% response rate in 2010.

## Major Findings

- Nebraska's public housing agencies are leaders in the nation when it comes to protecting resident health by implementing smoke-free policies in public housing. The Kearney, Nebraska public housing agency was one of the first in the nation to implement smoking restrictions when its smoke-free policy was implemented in 1997. Today, 87% of Nebraska public housing agencies have some form of smoking policy in place compared to 19% nationally.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [www.dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Documents/11SF\\_PublicHousingPoliciesNE.pdf](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Documents/11SF_PublicHousingPoliciesNE.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Affordable Housing Finance, "HUD Proposes Smoking Ban in Public Housing" (November 2015) available at: [www.housingfinance.com/policy-legislation/hud-proposes-smoking-ban-in-public-housing\\_o](http://www.housingfinance.com/policy-legislation/hud-proposes-smoking-ban-in-public-housing_o)

- As noted previously, 87% of public housing agencies responding to the survey had at least some smoking policies in place. This is a very large increase in voluntary implementation of smoke-free policies since 2010 when 60% had some form of policy in place.
  - In 2015, 60% of respondents have adopted a 100% indoor smoke-free policy compared to 40% in 2010.
  - In 2015, 27% of respondents have adopted partial smoke-free policies compared to 22% in 2010.
- The majority of respondents (87%) strongly agree or agree that it is legal for public housing agencies to implement a smoke-free policy.
- The most noted benefits of implementing smoke-free policies were: reduced fire risk (92%), improved indoor air quality (88%), and improvement in resident health (91%).
- Enforcement (77%) was the most cited barrier to implementing a smoke-free policy, consistent with the findings from the 2010 survey.

## Nebraska Public Housing Agencies With A 100% Smoke-Free Indoor Policy 2015

Albion Housing Agency	Henderson Housing Agency
Alliance Housing Agency	Holdrege Housing Agency
Auburn Housing Agency	Imperial Housing Agency
Beemer Housing Agency	Lexington Housing Agency
Bellevue Housing Agency	Loup City Housing Agency
Blair Housing Agency	Newman Grove Housing Agency
Cambridge Housing Agency	Loup City Housing Agency
Chadron Housing Agency	Newman Grove Housing Agency
Crete Housing Agency	North Loup Housing Agency
David City Housing Agency	Oakland Housing Agency
Deshler Housing Agency	Ord Housing Agency
Fairbury Housing Agency	Oshkosh Housing Agency
Fremont Housing Agency	Ravenna Housing Agency
Friend Housing Agency	Schuyler Housing Agency
Grant Housing Agency	Seward Housing Agency
Greeley Housing Agency	Stanton Housing Agency
Gresham Housing Agency	Syracuse Housing Agency
Harvard Housing Agency	Verdigre Housing Agency
Hay Springs Housing Agency	Weeping Water Housing Agency
Hemingford Housing Agency	

## Introduction

Between June and December 2015, an online survey was conducted with directors of public housing agencies in Nebraska to assess the extent of smoke-free policies in their facilities and perceived benefits and obstacles to implementation of the policies. This report provides the survey findings as well as a comparison to 2010 results, where applicable.

There are 108 Public Housing Agencies in Nebraska. The Housing Agencies manage a total of 7,700 public housing units with 56% elderly and 44% non-elderly tenants.<sup>3</sup> People who live in public housing units include the elderly, disabled, families in crisis, and working families. Living in public housing units that have not implemented a smoke-free policy can leave residents vulnerable to secondhand smoke<sup>4</sup>.

### Are Smoke-Free Housing Policies Legal?

**Yes.** Property owners, whether public or private, may restrict smoking on their properties. “No Smoking” rules for apartment units fall into the same legal category as “no pets” or “no loud noise” rules. They are policies that reduce property damage and protect tenants’ right of use and enjoyment of their apartments.

- The U.S. Constitution does not extend special protection to smokers.
- Smoking is not a specially protected liberty right under the Due Process Clause of the Constitution. The fundamental right to privacy does not apply to smoking.
- Smokers are not a specially protected category of people under the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution.

Samantha K. Graff, Tobacco Control Legal Consortium, *There Is No Constitutional Right to Smoke: 2008* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2008).

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<sup>3</sup> The Nebraska Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NE NAHRO), 2011

<sup>4</sup> Schoenmarklin, S., “Infiltration of Secondhand Smoke into Condominiums, Apartments and Other Dwellings.” Tobacco Control Legal Consortium, 2009.  
[www/mdsmokefreeapartments.org/docs/Infiltration.pdf](http://www/mdsmokefreeapartments.org/docs/Infiltration.pdf). Accessed: July, 2016

## Background

Tobacco smoking is a cause of disease in nearly all organs of the human body. Research continues to identify additional diseases caused or exacerbated by tobacco smoke including diabetes mellitus, rheumatoid arthritis, and colorectal cancer.<sup>5</sup>

Adverse health impacts of tobacco products are not limited exclusively to the smoker. The U.S. Surgeon General estimates 41,000 adult non-smokers die each year from lung cancer and heart disease attributable to secondhand smoke exposure.<sup>6</sup> Secondhand smoke (SHS) contains hundreds of toxic chemicals and is designated as a known human carcinogen by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. National Toxicology Program, and the International Agency for Research on Cancer.<sup>7</sup> In addition, exposure to SHS can also cause sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) leading to the deaths of hundreds of newborns each year according to the U.S. Surgeon General.<sup>8</sup>

The impact of SHS is especially damaging to children and unborn fetuses. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed the association between

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<sup>5</sup> Office of the Surgeon General, “The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress,” (2014), available at [www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/full-report.pdf](http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/full-report.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> Id

<sup>7</sup> American Cancer Society, “Secondhand Smoke,” [www.cancer.org/cancer/cancercauses/tobaccocancer/secondhand-smoke](http://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancercauses/tobaccocancer/secondhand-smoke).

<sup>8</sup> 2014 Surgeon General's Report, footnote 5.

SHS exposure and blood lead levels in both youth and adults leading to adverse cognitive outcomes.<sup>9</sup>

Approximately half of the U.S. population (including Nebraska) is protected from SHS exposure through statewide, municipal, and federal laws restricting smoking in public places and worksites. Despite these restrictions, nearly 58 million Americans are exposed to SHS, including approximately 15 million children. Due to public and worksite restrictions, the primary source of exposure to SHS is in the home.<sup>10</sup> The Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act of 2008 (implemented in 2009) made virtually all enclosed indoor work spaces including restaurants, bars, keno establishments, retail, office, manufacturing and indoor public places smoke-free. The Act, however, does not address the exposure of SHS in housing, including those that are publicly owned, and private automobiles.

Within multi-unit housing, SHS does not remain exclusively in the dwelling of the smoker. SHS moves throughout buildings, sometimes aided by shared heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment. Even when HVAC equipment is not

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<sup>9</sup> Patricia Richter et al., “Trends in Tobacco Smoke Exposure and Blood Lead Levels Among Youth and Adults in the United States: The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 1999-2008,” *Preventing Chronic Disease*, (December 19, 2013), available at [www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2013/pdf/13\\_0056.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2013/pdf/13_0056.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> 2006 Surgeon General's Report, footnote 5; David M. Homa et al., “Vital Signs: Disparities in Nonsmokers' Exposure to Secondhand Smoke—United States, 1999-2012,” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (February 6, 2015), available at [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6404a7.htm?s\\_cid=mm6404a7\\_w](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6404a7.htm?s_cid=mm6404a7_w).



shared, SHS passes through wall and floor/ceiling cracks, open windows and doors, elevator shafts, electrical lines, plumbing, and crawl spaces. The movement of contaminants has been documented through direct measurements of fine particles in indoor air.<sup>11</sup>

In 2006, the U.S. Surgeon General concluded that building ventilation and other air cleaning methods cannot eliminate exposure to SHS. The only effective way to eliminate the impacts of

**Secondhand smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals; hundreds are toxic, and about 70 can cause cancer. There is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke, and even brief exposure can cause immediate harm. Establishing a 100% smoke free environment is the only effective way to fully protect nonsmokers from secondhand smoke.**

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

SHS is to eliminate smoking from indoor air spaces.<sup>12</sup>

The Department of Health and Human Services' Tobacco Free Nebraska Program conducted a comprehensive state-wide assessment of public housing in 2010. A similar study was repeated in 2015. This report summarizes the information and provides the current status of implementation of smoke-free policies in public housing in Nebraska.

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<sup>11</sup> Brian A. King et al., "Secondhand Smoke Transfer in Multiunit Housing," 12 *Nicotine and Tobacco Research* 1133 (2010), available at [www.ntr.oxfordjournals.org/content/12/11/1133](http://www.ntr.oxfordjournals.org/content/12/11/1133).

<sup>12</sup> Office of the Surgeon General, "The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress," (2014), available at [www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/full-report.pdf](http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/full-report.pdf).

## Methodology

In 2010, Tobacco Free Nebraska developed a questionnaire to measure the adoption of smoke-free policies as well as attitudes and beliefs toward the policies among public housing managers. The design process was based on a review of literature and surveys used in other states and locales. The questionnaire used in 2015 was largely unchanged from the 2010 version to allow for valid comparisons between the two administrations.

The survey was administered as a census to public housing agencies in the State of Nebraska. A list of public housing directors was secured from the *Nebraska Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO)*. An invitation to participate in the survey was sent by email to all directors by NAHRO. Follow-up e-mails and phone calls were placed to non-respondents by NAHRO staff.

Emails were sent to 108 public housing directors. Responses were received from 65 directors resulting in a response rate of 60.2%.

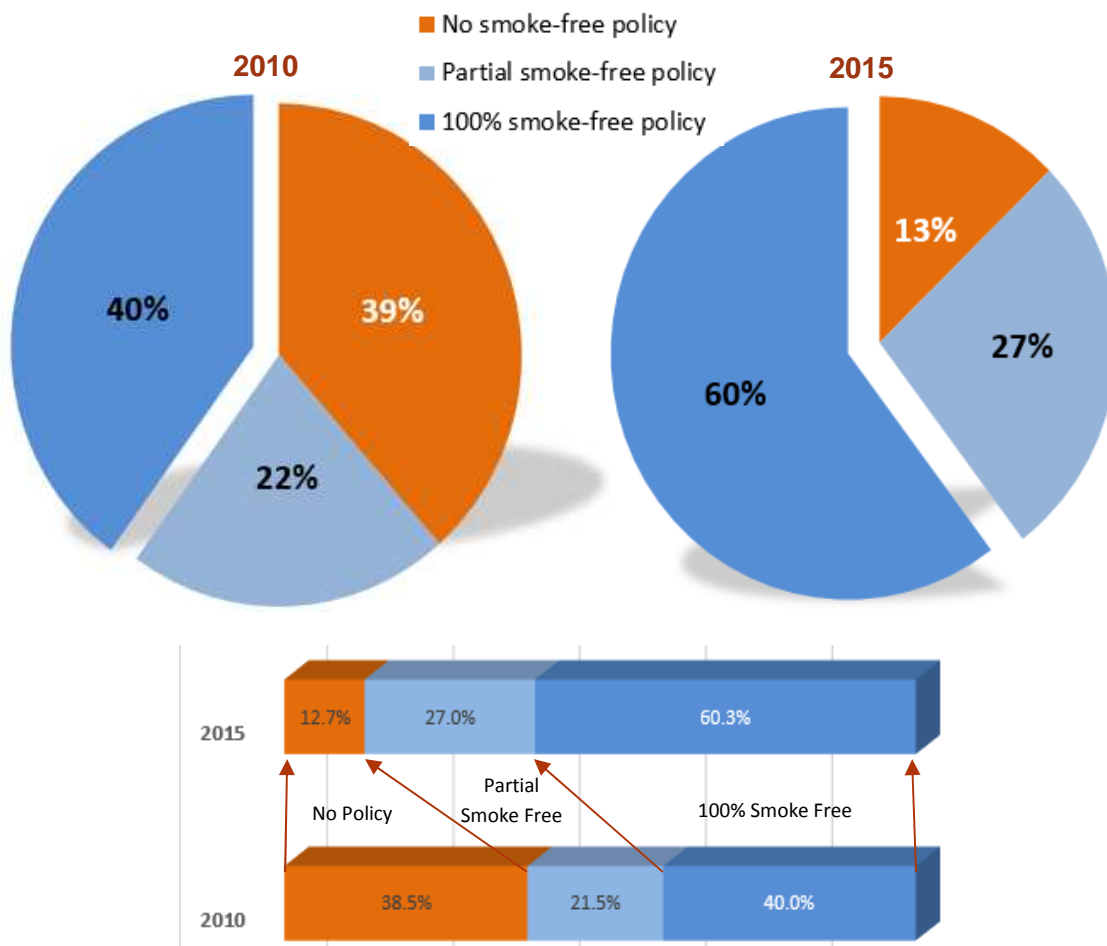
2015 Survey Response Rate		
	Number	Rate
<b>Respondents</b>	65	60.2%
<b>Non-respondents</b>	43	39.8%
<b>Total</b>	108	100.0%

## Results

### Smoke-Free Public Housing Policies

In 2015, 87% of respondents have adopted some level of a smoke-free policy. Of those, 60% have adopted a 100% indoor smoke-free policy in all units in all buildings. Less than one-third (27%) have adopted a policy that partially restricts smoking in some indoor areas. Only 13% of the respondents have not adopted any smoke-free policy in any units or buildings. The graphs below illustrate the large shift in smoke-free policies in public housing over the last five years.

**Figure 1: Smoke-Free Policies -- Nebraska Public Housing Agencies**



*Nine agencies reported they are 100% smoke-free but also have a small number of units with grandfather clauses, thus permitting limited smoking. These agencies ARE included in the graphs as smoke-free.*

### Imputed Smoke-Free Rate

The actual number of smoke-free housing agencies is likely underestimated at 60.2%. Some housing agencies indicated they were 100% smoke-free in 2010 but did not respond to the 2015 survey. It is reasonable to assume they did not re-introduce smoking after they had already implemented a smoke-free policy. The following housing agencies reported in 2010 they were 100% smoke-free but did not respond to the 2015 survey.

<i>Likely 100% Smoke-Free Housing Agencies</i>	
<i>(indicated in 2010 they were 100% smoke-free but did not respond to 2015 survey)</i>	
<i>Ainsworth Housing Agency</i>	<i>Milford Housing Agency</i>
<i>Arapahoe Housing Agency</i>	<i>Sidney Housing Agency</i>
<i>Cairo Housing Agency</i>	<i>St. Paul Housing Agency</i>
<i>Falls City Housing Agency</i>	<i>Wayne Housing Agency</i>
<i>Indianola Housing Agency</i>	<i>Wood River Housing Agency</i>

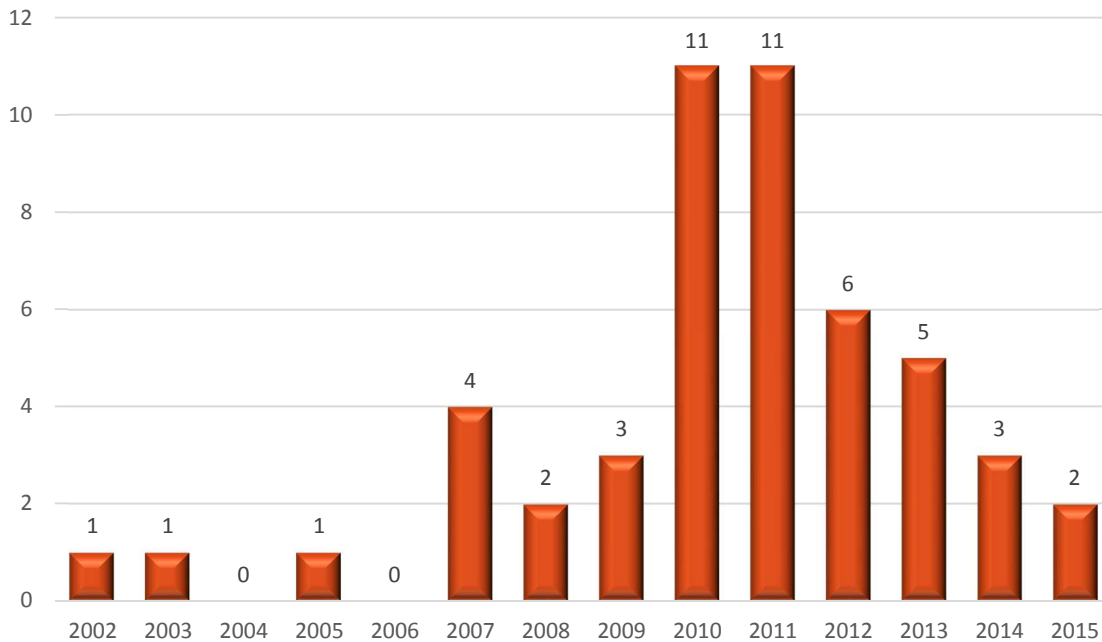
When including these additional 10 housing agencies in the 100% smoke-free category, 65.7% of the respondents have 100% smoke-free policies.

### Adoption of Smoke-Free Policies

The Kearney (Nebraska) Housing Agency adopted one of the country's first smoke-free housing policies in 1997. Between 1997 and the mid-2000s, however, the adoption of smoke-free housing policies by Nebraska Public Housing Agencies stalled.

Beginning in 2007 activity increased with a peak implementation of smoke-free policies in 2010 and 2011. Agencies continue to implement smoke-free policies, though at a slower pace than previous years.

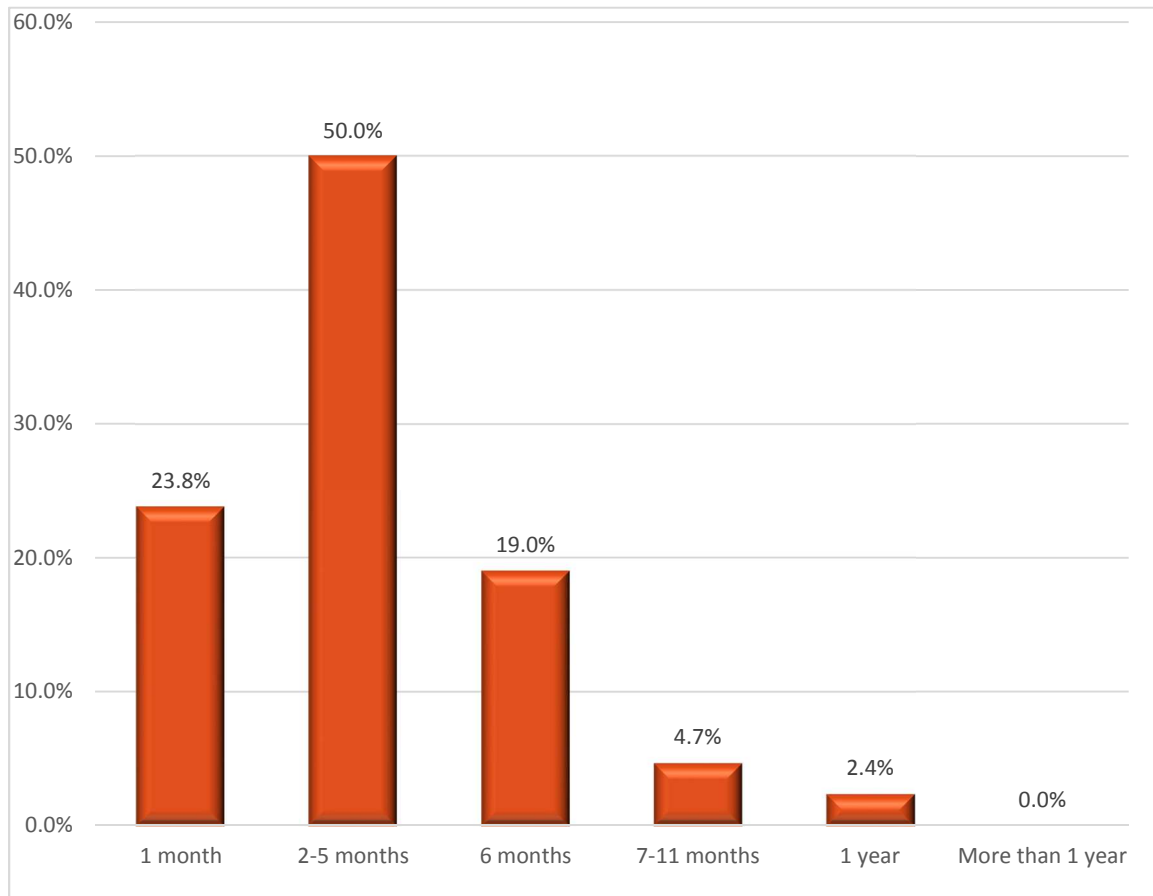
**Figure 2: Year of Implementation of Smoke-Free Policies**



### Notice to Residents Prior To Implementation of Smoke-Free Policy

Advance notice to residents of Public Housing Agencies informing them of the new smoke-free policy is important to help ensure the success of the policy and to proactively address resident concerns. In Nebraska, resident notice was given in varying timeframes prior to the implementation of the smoke-free policy, with most housing agencies providing notice from two to six months before implementation. A little more than a tenth (13%) grandfathered some existing residents allowing those residents to continue smoking in their units until the resident moved or renewed their lease.

**Figure 3: Length of Notice Given Before Implementation of Smoke-Free Policy**



### Qualitative Comments Regarding Resident Notification

<i>3 were grandfathered, 1 has quit smoking</i>
<i>All residents are non-smoking, with the exception of one that is grandfathered.</i>
<i>Established residents were given 6 months to adapt to the new regulations, offered a free training course in smoking cessation and other informational materials.</i>
<i>Designated smoking areas were established outside with shelters but 25 feet from each building.</i>
<i>New (residents) after a 20 day posting. Current tenants at recertification time.</i>
<i>One unit is grandfathered in, but will change when tenant vacates.</i>
<i>Policy took effect 2010-one building is designated as a smoking unit only until current resident moves.</i>
<i>We applied it to all – but gave the existing tenants a while to adhere to policy.</i>
<i>We currently have 5 tenants who we grandfathered in.</i>
<i>We have one resident grandfathered in since she has been here since July 1991.</i>
<i>When implemented, it applied to new residents immediately and existing residents were given a 5 month notice.</i>

### Implementation Difficulties Related to Grandfathering Clauses

The qualitative comments above reveal that grandfathering of current residents without some defined end date sometimes results in a situation where the property is not smoke-free for a considerable amount of time, sometimes years. More information about the advantages and disadvantages of allowing a grandfathering provision can be found in the HUD publication *Change is in the Air*.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> [www.portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=smokefreeactionguide.pdf](http://www.portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=smokefreeactionguide.pdf)

### E-Cigarettes/Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS)

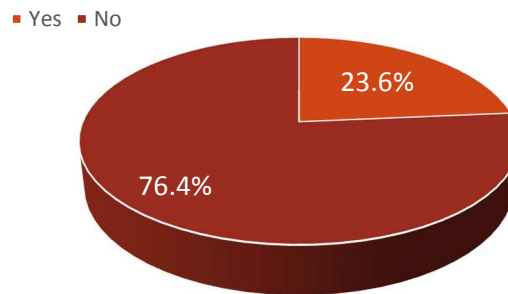
The popularity of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), commonly referred to as e-cigarettes, has increased substantially over the last few years. In 2014, 3.7% of adults were active users of e-cigarettes, however, there are many more who have tried the product. Almost half (47.6%) of current cigarette smokers have tried an e-cigarette. There are many people who use both combustible (lit) cigarettes and e-cigarettes. Almost one in six (15.9%) current cigarette smokers fall into this “dual-use” category.<sup>14</sup>

Questions about ENDS were added to the questionnaire for the 2015 administration due to the popularity of the product.

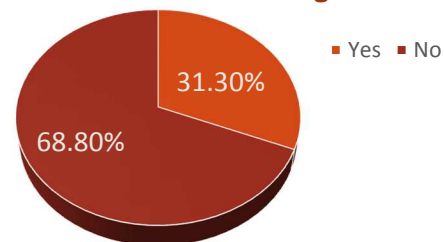
Almost one-quarter (23.6%) of responding housing agencies include restrictions on the use of ENDS in their policy. Of those, about one-third (31.3%) have the same restrictions on ENDS as lit cigarettes.

Few (28.3%) housing agencies are planning to expand their current smoke-free policy. The most common reasons for making a change include expanding it to cover more buildings or add ENDS restrictions.

**Figure 4: Inclusion of ENDS in Policy**



**Figure 5: If ENDS Included, Are Restrictions the Same as Lit Cigarettes?**



<sup>14</sup> Schoenborn C, Gindi R. Electronic Cigarette Use Among Adults: United States 2014. NCHS Data Brief No. 217 October 2015. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db217.pdf>

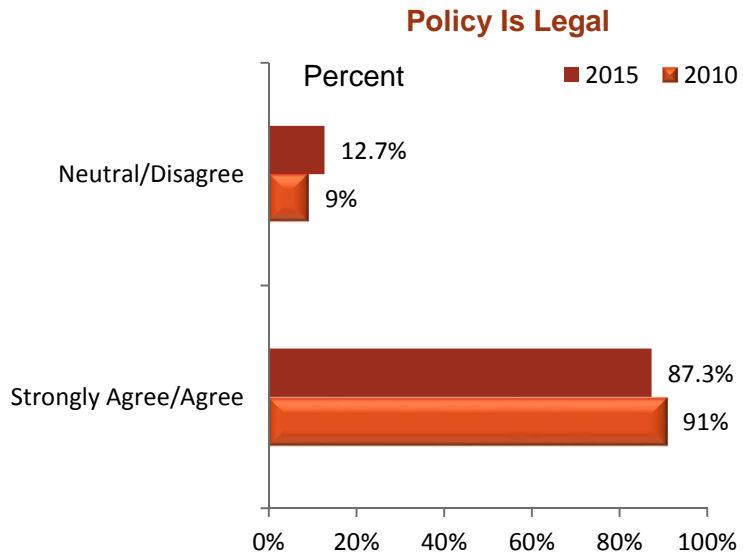


## Perceptions About Smoke-Free Policies

### Legality of Smoke-Free Policies

The majority of respondents (87.3%) strongly agree or agree that implementing a smoke-free policy in public housing is legal. Only 12.7% of the respondents were neutral or disagreed. The proportion of respondents in each category was nearly unchanged between 2010 and 2015.

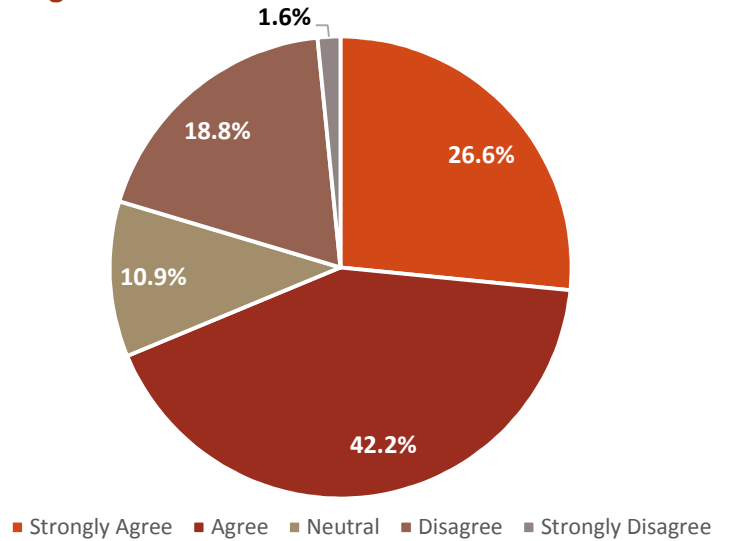
Figure 6: Perception That Smoke-Free



### Belief that Enforcement of a Smoke-Free Policy is Difficult

Perception that enforcement of smoke-free policies is difficult prevails. Nearly 70% of respondents (68.8%) Agree or Strongly Agree with the statement “It is difficult to enforce smoke-free policies in public housing units.”

Figure 7: Belief that Enforcement is Difficult



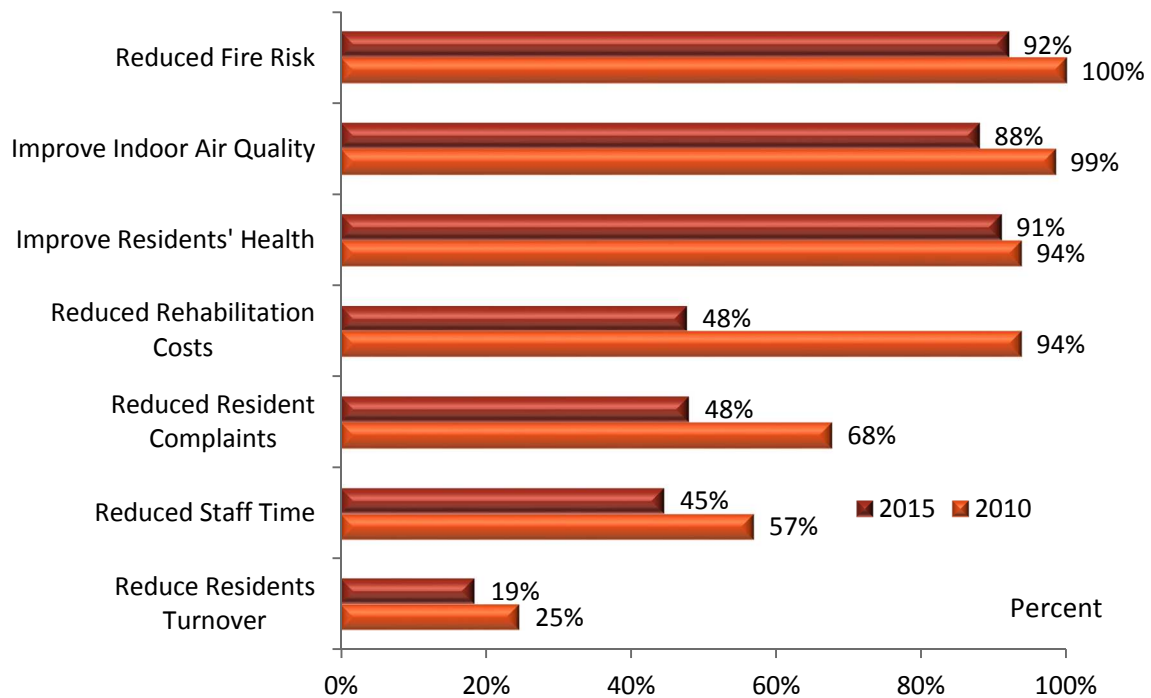
## Perceived Benefits

Almost all respondents agreed with three main benefits of implementing a smoke-free policy:

- reduced fire risk (92%)
- improved indoor air quality (88%)
- improved resident health (91%)

There is strong concordance between these three main benefits between 2010 and 2015. Interestingly, the benefit of “Reduced Rehabilitation Costs” was considered highly important in 2010 (94% marked the response), but less so in 2015 (48%).

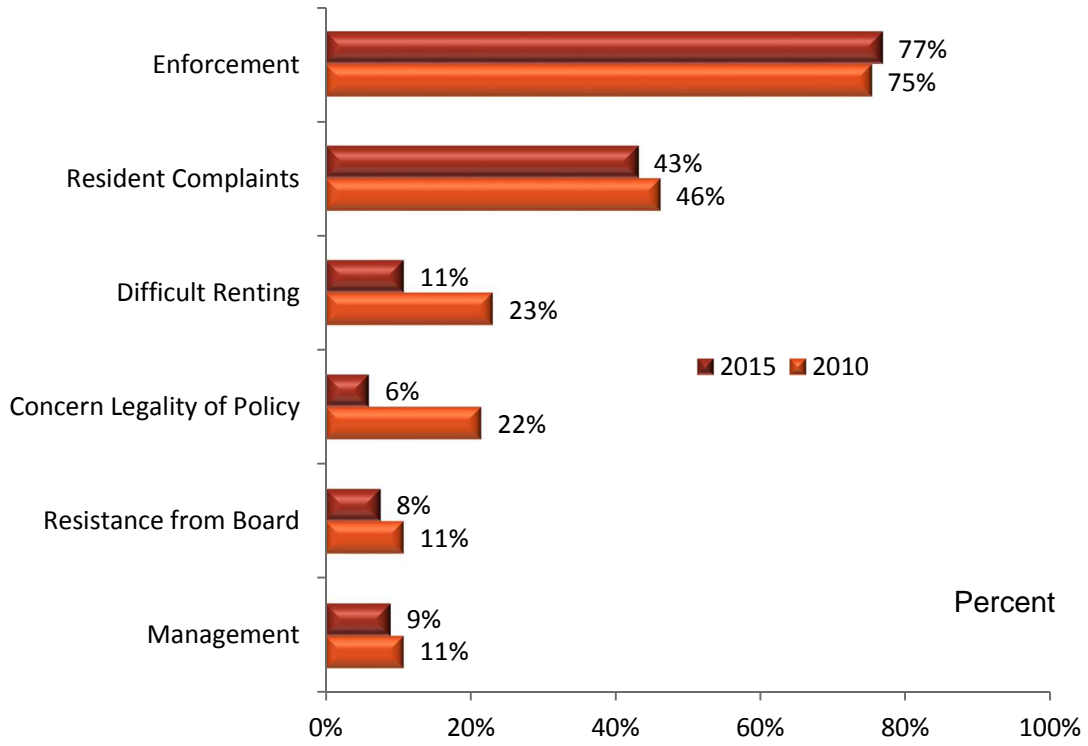
**Figure 8: Perceived Benefits of Smoke-Free Housing**



### Perceived Barriers

As in 2010, the majority of respondents considered enforcement (77%) as the major barrier to implementing a smoke-free policy. Almost half of respondents considered resident complaints as a barrier. Concerns over legality and difficulty renting the apartment were lower in 2015.

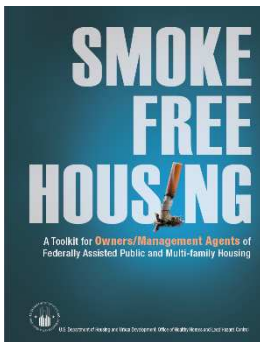
### Figure 9: Perceived Challenges of Smoke-Free Housing



## Moving Toward a Mandate

Currently there is no federal or state mandate requiring public housing agencies to implement smoke-free policies. Those that have done so have implemented these plans out of concern for their residents, their facility, and their employees. There have been recommendations to implement a policy from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In 2009, HUD Office of Public and Indian Housing published a notice strongly encouraging housing agencies to implement smoke-free policies in at least some units. This notice was re-issued in 2012. In 2010, HUD's Office of Housing issued a similar recommendation and also re-issued this notice in 2012.

In June 2012, HUD issued more information about implementing smoke-free policies for residents by issuing a "smoke-free toolkit." Also in 2012, HUD issued a notice in the



Federal Register for the collection of comments and information about the implementation of smoke-free policies in public housing. In general, comments received were positive about the development of smoke-free rules in public housing.

On November 12, 2015, HUD Secretary Castro and United States Surgeon General Murthy announced the publication of the proposed rule (24 CFR Parts 965 and 966). Under this proposed rule, all public housing agencies would have to be smoke free 18 months after the publishing of the rule. Publication in the Federal Register also started the public comment period about the proposed rule. There were 1,071 public comments received for this proposed rule. Comments were predominantly in support of the proposed rule.

As of the date of this report (September 2016) the final rule has not been published. It could be released into the Federal Register at any time. The proposed rule included these provisions:

- *Rule would apply to all public housing, except those that are jointly owned with another entity.*
- *Policy must be implemented within 18 months of rule publication*
- *No requirement to include e-Cigarettes, only required to include “lit tobacco products”*
- *Applies to all indoor housing units and indoor common areas*
- *Prohibits all indoor smoking and outdoor smoking within 25 feet of the building*
- *Agencies may establish smoking areas (outside and 25 feet from buildings) or decide to make their entire grounds smoke-free*

The provisions of the final rule may differ from the proposed rule. As of the publication of this report the final rule has not been published and there is no specific date when publication is likely.

## Conclusion

This study shows a continuing trend towards the adoption of smoke-free policies by Nebraska Public Housing Agencies. To date, 87% of the public housing agencies in Nebraska have adopted a smoke-free policy with 60% having adopted a 100% smoke-free policy in all units and buildings. The voluntary implementation of smoke-free policies in Nebraska is well ahead of the adoption of these policies in other states. This will make implementation of the OMB rule easier, however, concerns about enforcement are the predominant concern.

There is also a clear awareness among most Public Housing Agency directors about the legality of adopting a smoke-free policy with over 87% agreeing or strongly agreeing that smoke-free policies in public housing units are legal. While the final rule is not published yet, housing agencies will need to consider reasonable accommodation requests from disabled and mobility-impaired residents. HUD has indicated that when the final rule is published, guidance regarding reasonable accommodation will be provided.

Although the majority of directors are aware of the legality of smoke-free policies, over 75% of respondents believed that enforcing smoke-free policies is difficult. It will undoubtedly be difficult to commence eviction proceedings for residents who have historically been able to smoke in their apartments.

Public Housing Agency directors also recognize the benefits of adopting a smoke-free policy. Almost all directors indicated that smoke-free policies help to: reduce fire risk; improve indoor air quality; improve resident health; and reduce rehabilitation costs.

Future policy modifications will need to address issues such as e-cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, and other emerging products that may contribute to SHS exposure.

## Questionnaire

# Nebraska Public Housing Smoke-Free Policy Survey (2015)

Dear Directors of Nebraska Public Housing Authorities,

Tobacco Free Nebraska (TFN) and Nebraska National Association of Housing (NAHRO) are gathering information about smoke/tobacco-free policies in public agencies in the state. Please take a few minutes to share about the policies in your facilities. Your cooperation is highly appreciated.

Please mark (X) in your response box next to your response choice or write down your response in the space provided.

**Q1:** Name of Housing Authority

**Q2:** Are you a director of your housing authority?

Yes     No (Position title? \_\_\_\_\_)

**Q3:** What is the total number of public housing buildings and units your housing authority manages?

Total Number of Buildings

Total Number of Apartments/Units

**Q4:** Which of the following best describe the smoking policy for your housing units?

- All units are required to be 100% smoke-free indoors  
(including all units in all buildings)
- Some units are required to be 100% smoke-free, some aren't
- No units are required to be smoke-free indoors → Go to Q13.



**Q5:** Is a smoke-free policy included in your lease agreement?

- Yes       No

**Q6:** Did the smoke-free policy apply only to new residents or to all residents?

- Applied only to new residents
- Applied to all residents
- Other: Please tell us more details.

**Q7:** Where is smoking prohibited on your properties?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Everywhere, both indoors and Outdoors  | <input type="checkbox"/> Patios/Balconies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Everywhere, indoors and outdoors,<br>except for designated outdoor smoking areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Stairwells       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> All residential units  | <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certain residential units  | <input type="checkbox"/> Pool             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lobby/Clubhouse  | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn/Gardens     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hallways   | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking lots     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry rooms  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____     |

**Q8:** Does your policy include restrictions on the use of e-cigarettes or electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS)?

- Yes       No

**Q9:** Does your policy include the same restrictions for smoking and the use of e-cigarette or ENDS?

- Yes       No

**Q10:** When did the smoke-free policy go into effect?

**Q11:** How much advance notice did you give residents before implementation of a smoke-free policy?

- One month
- Two to five months
- Six months
- Seven to eleven months
- One year
- More than one year but less than two years
- Other – Please specify

**Q12:** Are you planning to expand your current smoke-free policies?

- Yes
- No

⇒ If “Yes”, tell us about the extension more:

**Q13:** Are you considering adopting a smoke-free policy for your public housing units?

- Yes
- No

**Q14:** Are you currently making plans to adopt a smoke-free policy?

- Yes
- No

**Q15:** Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: “It is legal for a Housing Authority to implement a smoke-free policy in public housing units.”

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**Q16:** Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: “It is difficult to enforce smoke-free policies in public housing units.”

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**Q 17:** What are the benefits of having smoke-free housing? (Check all that apply)

- Reduced risk of fire
- Positive impact on residents' health
- Improved indoor air quality
- Reduced staff time to manage building
- Reduced residents' complaints
- Reduce residents turn-over
- Reduced rehabilitation cost for smoking units
- Unsure
- Other, please specify:

**Q18:** What are the major obstacles to implementing a smoke-free policy in public housing units? (Check all that apply)

- Residents' complaints
- Enforcement
- Management
- Resistance from the Board
- Difficult filling vacant units
- Concern over legality of policy
- Unsure
- Other, please specify:

**Q19:** Would you like to receive more information on how to implement a smoke-free policy?

- Yes
- No

**Q20:** If you have a smoke-free policy for your public housing units, would you be willing to share it with us?

- Yes
- No

**Q21:** Additional Comments?

## Acknowledgement

- Tobacco Free Nebraska thanks the Nebraska Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) for their support of the Smoke-Free Public Housing Survey.
- Tobacco Free Nebraska thanks the Housing Agency Directors who completed the questionnaire and provided their opinions and perspectives.



### MISSION OF NEBRASKA NAHRO

THE NEBRASKA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT OFFICIALS (NAHRO) WORKS TOWARDS THE ATTAINMENT OF PROVISIONS FOR ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR ALL PEOPLE AND TOWARD THE ATTAINMENT OF SOUND COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE PROCESSES OF DEVELOPMENT, PRESERVATION, CONSERVATION, AND REHABILITATION.

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