

## **New Survey Shows 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 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.  
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