

# Property Managers' Views on Smokefree Housing



## Why are smokefree policies important?

◆ **Smokefree policies protect residents and employees from the dangers of secondhand smoke.** Secondhand smoke migrates from other units through doorways, cracks in the wall, and ventilation systems.

◆ **Smokefree policies can prevent building fires.** Smoking-related residential fires are the #1 cause of fire death in the U.S.

◆ **Smokefree policies are legal.** There is no Constitutional right to smoke. Legal judgments conclude that smokefree policies do not infringe on individual rights.

◆ **Smokefree policies are generally self-enforcing.** There is no federal, state, or local law that prohibits a property from going smokefree.

◆ **Residents prefer smokefree housing.** Research shows the overwhelming majority of residents support the implementation of a smokefree policy in their multi-housing unit.

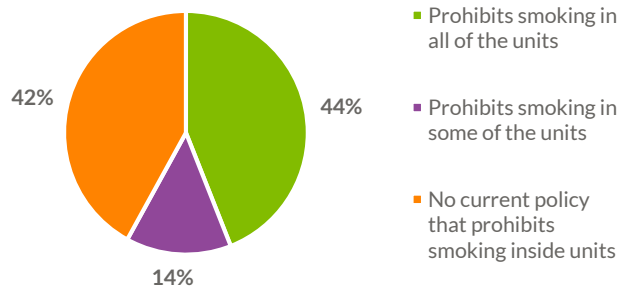
◆ **Smokefree housing is a growing market.** Municipalities, public housing authorities, and properties across the U.S. are adopting smokefree policies.

## 2015 SURVEY RESULTS:

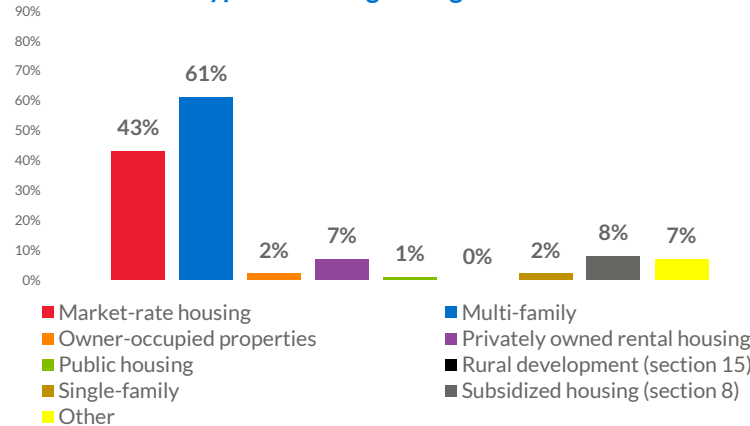
### Type of housing professional completing the survey:

Property manager	119
Multi-unit family property owner	5
Both property manager and property owner	8
Other	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>140</b>

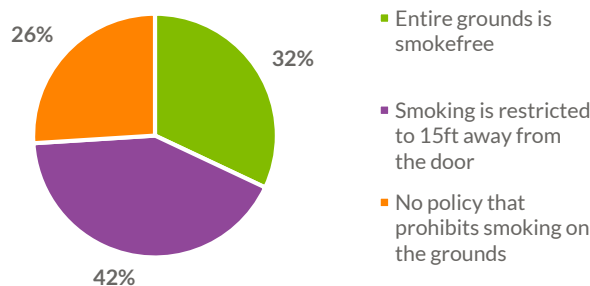
### More than half of property managers prohibit smoking in all or some of their units



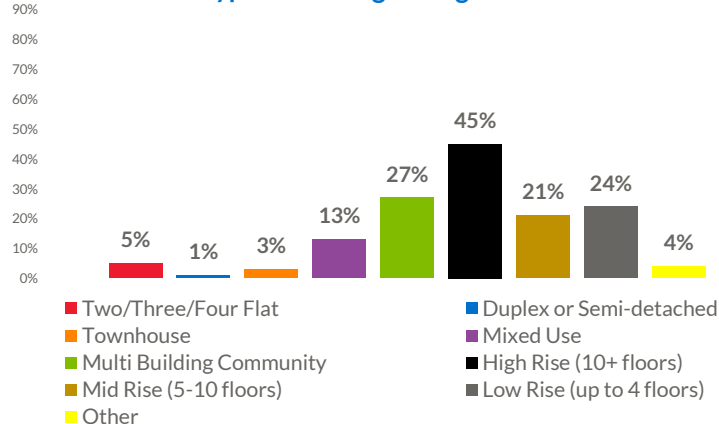
### Type of housing managed/owned:



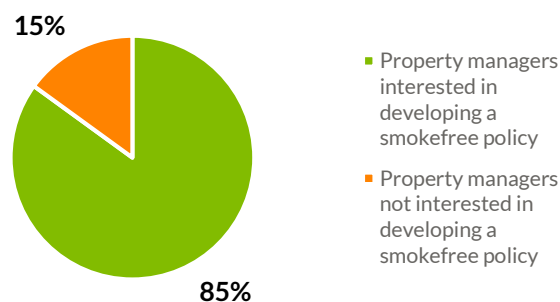
### Most property managers prohibit smoking on the entire grounds or restricted to 15ft away from the door



### Type of housing managed/owned:



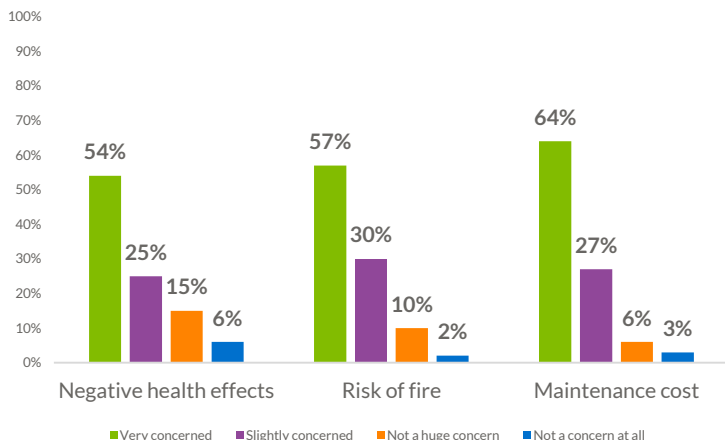
### Most property managers without a smokefree policy are interested in developing a policy for their property



# Property Managers' Views on Smokefree Housing

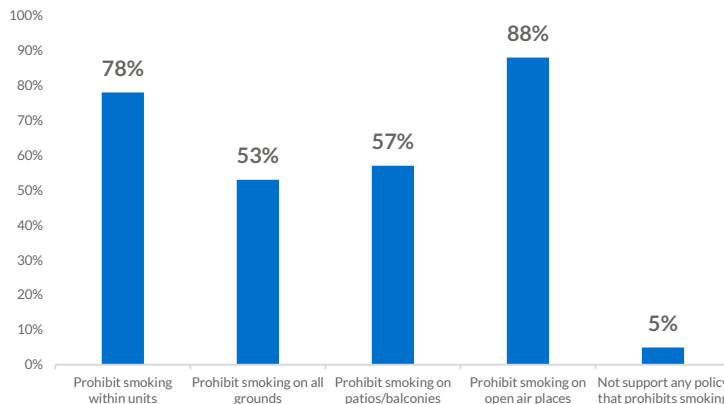


## Property managers' level of concern with smoking within units



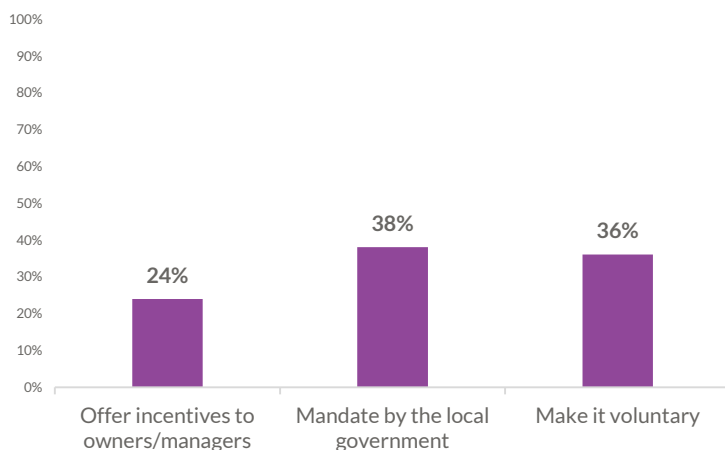
**More than half of property managers are very concerned with the negative health effects of smoking, risk of fire in units, and the financial cost of maintenance.** Other concerns included resident complaints, disturbing non-smokers' lifestyle, and having a negative impact on the building's reputation.

## Property managers would support policies that...



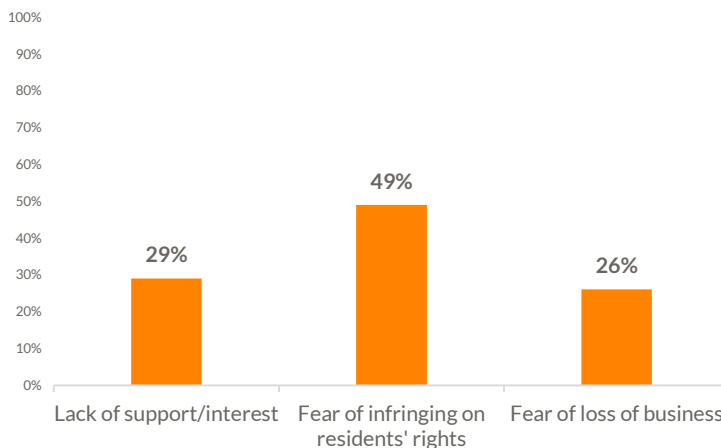
**78% of property managers would support a smokefree policy that prohibits smoking within apartment units,** which would protect residents from the dangers of secondhand smoke. Only 7 property managers/owners reported that they would not support any smokefree policy that prohibits smoking.

## Property managers think the best way to encourage property managers/owners to adopt a smokefree policy is to...



**38% of property managers think that a mandate by the local government is the best way to encourage buildings to become smokefree.** Other thoughts include reducing the tax burden or requiring all buildings in Chicago to become smokefree.

## Challenges that have prevented property managers from going smokefree include...



**49% of property managers fear of infringing on residents' rights to smoke.** Other challenges include difficulty enforcing a smokefree policy, the cost of cleaning units to meet smokefree standards, and not enough support from residents and staff.

This survey was conducted by the American Lung Association and the Chicagoland Apartment Association. There were 140 responses from May - June 2015.