



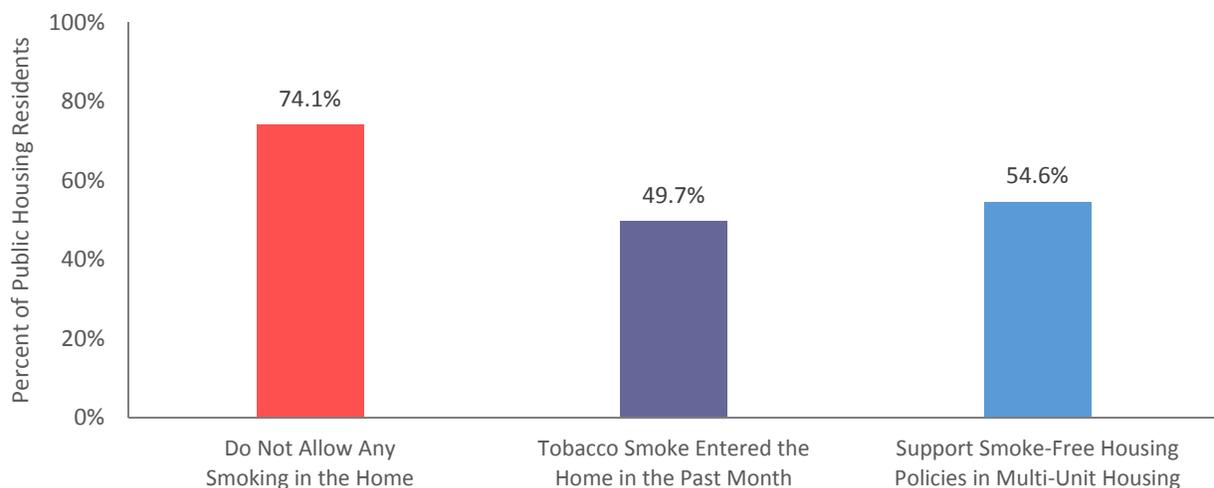
Smoke-Free Public Housing in New York State: Household Rules, Secondhand Smoke Exposure, and Policy Support

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently announced a federal rule prohibiting the use of ignited tobacco products inside living units, indoor common areas, and all outdoor areas up to 25 feet from public housing buildings nationwide. The rule became effective February 2017, and public housing agencies have 18 months to implement. Estimated annual cost savings associated with prohibiting smoking in public housing in New York State (NYS) include \$7 million in reduced renovation costs, \$4 million in reduced fire risk, and \$47 million per year in reduced second hand smoke-related health care costs.¹

According to data from the 2016 NYS Adult Tobacco Survey (NY-ATS), 74.1% of adult public housing residents reported they do not allow any smoking in the home. Yet, half of public housing residents report that secondhand smoke entered their home sometime in the past month. Over half of public housing residents (54.6%) in New York support smoke-free housing policies in multi-unit housing, including indoor areas, private balconies and patios. Lung cancer and heart disease in adults, and asthma, upper and lower respiratory tract infections, and ear infections in children are some of the serious health problems that result from secondhand smoke exposure.^{2,3}

The HUD rule will have a significant impact on public housing residents in New York State. Eighty-four local housing authorities across the state manage approximately 200,000 residential units.⁴ This includes the New York City Housing Authority, the largest housing authority in the country. Thirty-five of NY's housing authorities already have smoke-free housing policies in place.⁵

Smoking Rules in the Home, Exposure to Secondhand Smoke, and Support for Smoke-Free Housing among NYS Public Housing Residents, NY-ATS 2016



1. King BA, Peck RM, Babb SD. (2014) National and State Cost Savings Associated with Prohibiting Smoking in Subsidized and Public Housing in the United States. *Preventing Chronic Disease*. 11:140222.

2. Treyster Z, Gitterman B. (2011). Second hand smoke exposure in children: Environmental factors, physiological effects, and interventions within pediatrics. *Reviews on Environmental Health*, 26(3), 187–195.

3. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2006). *The health consequences of involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke: A report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health.

4. New York State Department of Health. (2016) Unpublished data. Bureau of Tobacco Control.

5. New York State Department of Health. (2016) Tobacco Control Prevention Agenda Brief. Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Research.

Source: New York State Adult Tobacco Survey 2016.

Contact the Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research, New York State Department of Health at (518) 473-0673 or send an e-mail to tcp@health.ny.gov. StatShots can be accessed online at: http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/tobacco_control/reports/statshots/