

Second-Hand Smoke in Regionally Owned Community Housing

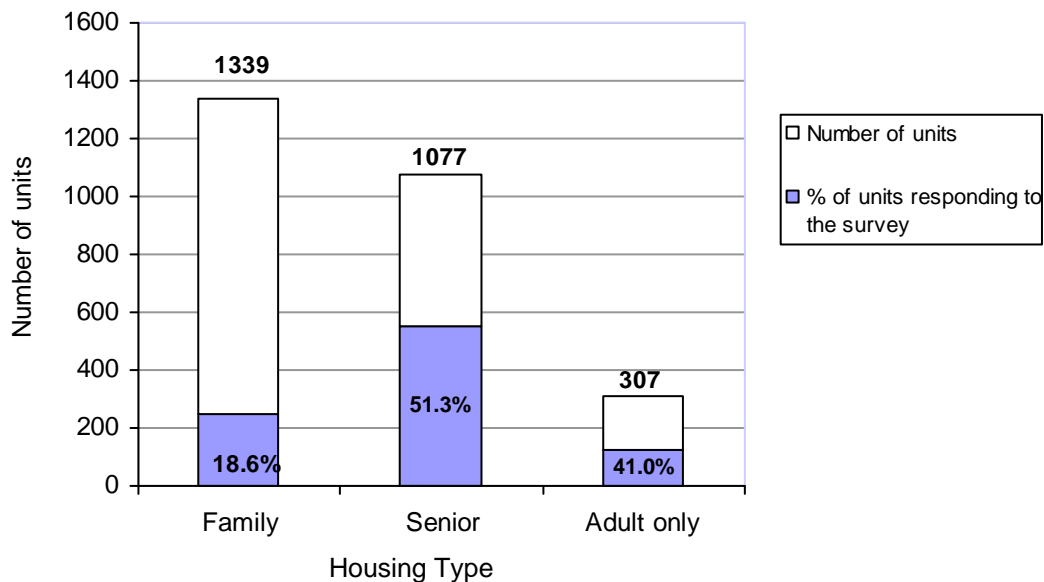
Survey Results

The survey was mailed to all 2,723 Waterloo Region Housing tenant households. With the survey was information about how to get help if English is your second language. Reminders to fill out the survey were put in community centres, in Waterloo Region Housing offices and on apartment building bulletin boards.

We received 967 completed surveys. This means 36% of all tenants answered the survey. Most of these surveys were answered by tenants in seniors' buildings (51%). Tenants in adult buildings answered 41% of the surveys. Only 19% of the surveys were answered by tenants in family buildings. Since fewer people living in family units sent in surveys, we especially need more information from this group.

The graph below shows the percentage of people from each building type (family, senior and adult only) who answered the survey.

Table 1. Response Rate by Housing Type.



The next table lists all the survey questions and the percentage (%) of people who gave each answer. Percentage (%) is the number of people who chose that answer out of every 100. For example, 18% means 18 out of every 100 people chose that answer.

Question	Response	
1. Do you smoke?	Yes No	21% 75%
2. Does any other member of your household smoke?	Yes No	6% 87%
3. Does anyone smoke inside your home?	Often Sometimes Never	7% 18% 75%
4. Does anyone smoke on your balcony or patio?	Often Sometimes Never	9% 32% 58%
5. How often are you exposed to second-hand smoke in your home? This may include smoke coming from the outside.	Always Very often Sometimes Never	10% 14% 33% 43%
6. Does second-hand smoke bother you or others in your home?	Yes No	54% 46%
7. Do you or others in your home have health problems that get worse when you breathe in second-hand smoke?	Yes No Don't know	36% 48% 16%
8. Do you believe that breathing in second-hand smoke is harmful to a person's health?	Yes No Don't know	81% 9% 10%
9. Would you like some parts of your housing community to be smoke-free? For example, not allowing smoking in one wing or floor in apartment buildings, or in a row of townhouse units?	Yes No Don't know	57% 26% 17%
10. Would you like your building to be 100% smoke-free, including no smoking on balconies and patios?	Yes No Don't know	50% 37% 13%

Question	Response	
11. Do you think the Region of Waterloo should make a smoke-free policy for Regionally owned Community Housing units?	Yes	52%
	No	34%
	Don't know	15%
12. Does it concern you that current tenants may still be allowed to smoke in their units for the remainder of their lease, if the Region of Waterloo changed its current policy to make Regionally owned Community Housing units smoke-free?	Yes	36%
	No	49%
	Don't know	16%

Overall:

- 21% of tenants who answered the survey said they smoke
- 25% of tenants said someone smokes inside their home
- 42% said someone smokes on their balcony or patio sometimes or often
- 57% said they have been exposed to second-hand smoke inside their home
- 54% said they or others in their home are bothered by second-hand smoke
- 36% said they or others in their home have a health problem made worse by second-hand smoke (this number was 90% in family housing)
- 81% said they believe breathing in second-hand smoke is harmful to their health

What did tenants say about a policy on second-hand smoke?

- 57% of all tenants who answered the survey said they want part of their housing to be smoke free. For example, they want smoking restricted in one wing, unit or floor of a building or complex. Twenty-six per cent (26%) said they do not want part of their housing to be smoke free and 7% do not know.

Below is a breakdown of the percentage of different groups of tenants who would like part of their housing to be smoke-free:

	Want part of housing to be smoke-free	Do not want part of housing to be smoke-free	Do not know
Smokers	16%	64%	17%
Non-smokers	69%	13%	17%
Family units	59%	24%	17%
Seniors units	57%	24%	19%
Adult units	54%	37%	10%

*results may not add to 100% because of rounding

- 50% of tenants who answered the survey said they want all housing units to be smoke free, including balconies and patios, 37% do not want all housing units to be smoke-free and 13% do not know.

Below is a breakdown of the percentage of different groups of tenants who would like all of their housing, including balconies and patios, to be smoke-free:

	Want all of housing to be smoke-free	Do not want all of housing to be smoke-free	Do not know
Smokers	4%	94%	3%
Non-smokers	64%	20%	15%
Family units	54%	36%	11%
Seniors units	51%	36%	14%
Adult units	45%	47%	8%

*results may not add to 100% because of rounding

- 52% of total respondents believe the Region of Waterloo should make a smoke-free policy for Regionally owned Community Housing units, 34% do not want a smoke-free policy and 15% do not know.

Below is a breakdown of the percentage of different groups of tenants who would like a smoke-free policy:

	Want a smoke-free policy	Do not want a smoke-free policy	Do not know
Smokers	4%	86%	7%
Non-smokers	66%	18%	17%
Family units	54%	29%	17%
Seniors units	52%	33%	15%
Adult units	48%	44%	8%

*results may not add to 100% because of rounding

- If a smoke-free policy is approved, existing leases with tenants will not be changed to include the smoke-free policy unless the tenant agrees to this change. We asked tenants if they would be concerned if we put a smoke-free policy in place, but allowed current tenants to continue to smoke in their units for as long as they live in the same unit. Overall, 36% of tenants who sent in surveys said they would be concerned if the Region of Waterloo put a smoke-free policy in place, but existing tenants could still smoke in their units for as long as they live in the same unit. Just 10% of smokers and 43% of non-smokers said they would be concerned if existing tenants could smoke in their units for as long as they live in the unit.