

HEALTH MATTERS

TOBACCO SURVEY SUMMARY COMMUNITIES WITH THE PORCUPINE HEALTH UNIT AREA*

(Excluding Timmins and Kapuskasing)

This survey was administered by Northern Ontario On-Call in January/February, 2003. The phone survey selected households and an adult within the household randomly. Over 400 residents 19 years of age and over were surveyed from across the smaller communities in the Porcupine Health Unit area (Timmins and Kapuskasing residents were surveyed separately). The survey was delivered in either English or French through the use of a questionnaire developed by the Porcupine Health Unit. The following are some preliminary highlights specific to the Porcupine Health Unit area (Cochrane District plus Hornepayne), excluding Timmins and Kapuskasing. A final report with full details of the survey will be available in late spring.

Smoking Rates:

- 78 % of residents do not smoke; 17 % are daily smokers.

Locations People Left Because of Smoking:

- 23% of residents have left one or more locations because of people smoking.
- 15% of residents have left a restaurant and 18 % have left a bar because smoking was permitted.

Exposure to Second-Hand Smoke:

- 34% of residents are exposed to second-hand smoke on a daily basis. The top five locations for exposure are: restaurants 51%, other people's homes 40%, at home 28%, bars 22% and at work 20%.
- 64% of residents are concerned about exposure to second-hand smoke.
- 90% of residents believe that second-hand smoke can cause health problems in non-smokers.
- 96% of residents believe that smoking can cause health problems in a smoker.

Community Support for an Indoor Public Places 100% Smoke-Free Bylaw:

- 57% of the residents strongly support a 100% smoke-free bylaw in their community; 17% somewhat support.
- 16% of residents strongly oppose a 100% smoke-free bylaw in their community; 10% somewhat oppose.

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Community Support From 100% Smoke-Free Bylaws Specific to Different Locations:

- 76% of the residents would support a bylaw that made restaurants 100% smoke-free, 23% opposed 100% smoke-free restaurants.
- 56% of the residents would support a bylaw that made bars 100% smoke-free, while 35% would oppose 100% smoke-free bars and 9% don't know.
- The majority of residents would strongly support a bylaw that made bingo halls and bowling alleys smoke-free (51% and 53% respectively).

Economic Impact in Timmins and Kapuskasing of Smoke-Free Bylaws:

There would be a positive economic impact of smoke-free bylaws in Timmins:

- 61% of other residents in the Porcupine Health Unit area (of 93% who frequent restaurants in Timmins) said that there would be no difference in the frequency that they would go to restaurants and 30% said they would frequent restaurants more often.

There would be a positive economic impact of smoke-free bylaws in Kapuskasing:

- 62% of other residents in the Porcupine Health Unit area (of 88% who frequent restaurants in Kapuskasing) said that there would be no difference in the frequency that they would go to restaurants and 30% said they would frequent restaurants more often.
- 62% of residents (of 77% that go to bars in Kapuskasing) said that there would be no difference in the frequency that they would go to bars and 27% said that they would go more often.

*¹ Communities surveyed included: Moombeam, Fauquier, Strickland, Val Rita, Harty, Opatatika, Hearst, Calstock, Mattice, Val Coté, Cochrane, Iroquois Falls, Porquis Junction, Tunis, Monteith, Val Gagne, Matheson, Ramore, Smooth Rock Falls, Hornepayne and Moosonee.