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
- **TOTAL 140**

**Type of housing managed/owned:**

- Market-rate housing 61%
- Owner-occupied properties 2%
- Public housing 7%
- Single-family 1%
- Multi-family 0%
- Privately owned rental housing 2%
- Rural development (section 15) 8%
- Subsidized housing (section 8) 7%

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

- Prohibits smoking in all of the units 44%
- Prohibits smoking in some of the units 14%
- No current policy that prohibits smoking inside units 42%

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

- Entire grounds is smokefree 42%
- Smoking is restricted to 15ft away from the door 32%
- No policy that prohibits smoking on the grounds 26%

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

- Property managers interested in developing a smokefree policy 21%
- Property managers not interested in developing a smokefree policy 24%
- Other 4%
Property Managers’ Views on Smokefree Housing

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.

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.

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.

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.