

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clark County Health District conducts first local environmental tobacco smoke survey

(Las Vegas, Nev., September 22, 2001) – Recent findings of a survey initiated by the Clark County Health District, and conducted by The Gallup Organization, show that a majority of adults living in Clark County support stronger policies that would ban smoking in specific areas.

This survey is the first to ask residents of their specific exposure to second-hand smoke and of their views on policy issues regarding smoking bans. A majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that smoking should be banned on any school property at any time (90 percent of all respondents, 85 percent of respondents who smoke), that smoking should be banned in grocery stores (85 percent of all, 81 percent of smokers) and that smoking should be banned in convenience stores (79 percent all, 72 percent of smokers). Additionally, among all respondents 67 percent agreed or strongly agreed that smoking should be banned in all indoor restaurants. Among smokers who responded to the survey, 40 percent agreed or strongly agreed to the same question. Highlights of the study are currently available through the Health District and the complete study will be available later this year.

Dr. Donald Kwalick, chief health officer, responded to the results stating, “The survey results are an affirmation that our residents support public health measures that would protect not only themselves, but workers in these establishments, from the harmful effects of tobacco smoke.”

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The health district has an active Tobacco Control Program that spearheads campaigns and programs designed to heighten the public's awareness of the dangers of all forms of tobacco-use and to create venues for smoke-free activities.

“Currently we have an ongoing program aimed at preventing tobacco use among teenagers and we have just kicked off our third annual smoke-free dining event,” said Nicole Bungum, program manager for the health district.

“As part of our smoke-free dining campaign we are promoting restaurants who are always smoke-free with advertisements in both English and Spanish. We are also working with restaurants that have smoking sections to hold special smoke-free events. This campaign has been very successful in the past. These recent survey findings demonstrate that there is a demand for this type of program and we will be using the results to identify additional program opportunities.”

The smoke-free restaurant movement is also being promoted at the grassroots level by STICC (Stop Tobacco-use in Clark County), a local coalition that counts the Health District as a supporting member. STICC has produced stickers that can be attached to a restaurant bill that read, “Please go smoke free . . . I would dine at your restaurant more often.”

For more information about tobacco programs contact the Clark County Health District Tobacco Control Program at (702) 383-1217.

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