

Survey of Post-Secondary Tobacco Control Policies

In Alberta

July / August 2003

HIGHLIGHTS

The following highlights are based on the findings of a province-wide survey of post-secondary tobacco control policies conducted by Action on Smoking & Health as part of an 18-month project titled "Building Capacity for Smoke-Free Environments in Alberta". A three-page, self-administered questionnaire was distributed to the senior tobacco policy administrators of all 22 Alberta public post-secondary institutions between July and August 2003. These institutions include universities, colleges, and technical and art institutes. Of the 22 questionnaires sent, 21 completed questionnaires were received resulting in a 95% response rate.

TOTAL SURVEYS RECEIVED

N = 21
(95% response rate)

Institutional Smoking Policy

Inside Campus Buildings

- All of the responding institutions have adopted indoor tobacco control policies whether 100% smoke-free or smoking restricted (e.g. designated and specially ventilated smoking rooms).
- 90% of responding institutions have adopted 100% smoke-free policies in their main academic and administration buildings and in campus/student eating areas. Ten (48%) prohibit smoking in on-campus bars and lounges.
- Between 86 and 90% of institutions prohibit smoking in other campus buildings and facilities, including satellite and indoor athletic facilities.
- The majority of institutions (86%) prohibit smoking in campus-owned or leased vehicles.

Outdoor Campus Areas & Entrances

- While none of the responding institutions prohibits smoking on campus grounds, six institutions (29%) do prohibit smoking near campus building entrances and air intakes.
- Only a few institutions have written policies prohibiting (4) or restricting (4) smoking at outdoor athletic and recreational venues.

Student Residences

- 62% of responding institutions specifically prohibit smoking inside "on-campus" residence common areas (e.g. hallways, lobbies, function rooms and laundry rooms).
- Four of the 21 responding institutions (19%) extend that ban to individual student rooms. Where "on-campus" sorority or fraternity housing exists, smoking is either prohibited (2) or restricted (1).

- It should be noted that in a number of cases the smoking policy is at the discretion of the student resident building manager or committee and not covered under the main campus smoking policy.

Student Union Buildings

- In some cases, the Student Union Council sets smoking policy. However, nine of the responding institutions indicated their institutional smoking policy extends to Student Union-run buildings and that smoking is prohibited.

Tobacco Industry Distribution and Marketing

- While a number of institutions indicated there are presently no sales of tobacco products on campus, only 4 of the 21 responding institutions explicitly prohibit the sale of such products. Two of the 21 have written policy prohibiting the distribution of tobacco products. Some institutions stated they have no on-campus sales outlets.
- Three (14%) of the responding institutions have written policy prohibiting the advertising or marketing of tobacco products on campus, such as in campus-run publications/media and on posters.

Tobacco Cessation and Support

- A majority of institutions offer support to students, faculty and staff by way of counselling, education/awareness programs or cessation programs (on-campus and referral).
- While over half of all responding institutions offer health plan/insurance coverage of tobacco cessation programs or products (e.g. nicotine replacement therapies or Zyban) for their faculty and staff, only three institutions indicated similar support for students.
- Six of the 21 responding institutions noted 'social norming campaigns' as part of their tobacco cessation and support strategy.

Tobacco Industry Funding and Investment

Institutions were asked about written policies explicitly prohibiting the acceptance of assistance (financial or other) from the tobacco industry or tobacco industry affiliated organizations and the existence of written policies prohibiting institutional investment/stock ownership in those organizations.

- As of August 2003, none of the responding institutions have in place written policies prohibiting the acceptance of financial or other assistance from the tobacco industry.
- Two responding institutions - Olds College and University of Alberta – are currently working on proposals to institute policies prohibiting the acceptance of financial assistance from the tobacco industry.
- Furthermore, University of Alberta is reviewing its policies on institutional investment in tobacco industry or tobacco industry affiliated organizations.
- None of the responding institutions indicated formal plans regarding the divestiture of any existing tobacco industry or tobacco industry affiliated holdings (e.g. institutional investment, stock ownership or institution retirement plans/annuities). However, eleven institutions indicated that this action 'does not apply'.

Policy Enforcement

- The majority of responding institutions (62%) stated they have policies or procedures in place governing violations of established tobacco-related policies.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS SURVEY PLEASE CONTACT



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