



Tobacco-Free Onondaga County

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Community Tobacco Survey of Adult Residents of Onondaga County, New York
Conducted by Joel Lalone Consulting, June 2008

Summary of Key Findings*

TOBACCO USE

- ✓ Current smoking rate in Onondaga County is 16.3%
- ✓ Among Onondaga County adults, gender, age, and education level are significant factors correlated to tobacco use. Male residents, residents under the age of 65, and those without a 4-year college degree education level or above are most likely to be tobacco users.
- ✓ Smokers in Onondaga County commonly purchase their cigarettes at an Indian reservation or enterprise (63.8%), the regional average is 58.5%.

TOBACCO CESSATION

- ✓ A significant number of residents are familiar with the New York State Smokers Quitline (82.4%) which represents a significant increase from 2006 (42.9%) and 2004 (35.2%).
- ✓ Among cigarette smokers in Onondaga County, 50.4% were advised to quit by their doctors which is a significant drop from 2006 (70.6%).
- ✓ During the past year, 41.8% of Onondaga County smokers have attempted to quit smoking. However, the majority of them remained tobacco-free for less than a month (68.9%).
- ✓ Over half of the Onondaga County smokers report that they want to quit smoking (53.8%).

SPREADING THE MESSAGE ABOUT THE DANGERS OF TOBACCO

- ✓ Television is by far the most common medium where residents recall seeing anti-tobacco advertising. 73.3% of Onondaga County adults report noticing television advertising about the dangers of tobacco or quitting smoking.

INDOOR SECONDHAND SMOKE EXPOSURE

- ✓ An overwhelming majority of Onondaga County respondents (92.6%) considers secondhand smoke to be harmful; 72.9% indicated they believe it is *very harmful*. Over 80% of *current smokers* consider exposure to secondhand smoke to be harmful.
- ✓ An increasing number of Onondaga County adults (86.6%) report that they do not allow smoking in their homes (compared to 74.3% in 2006), 85.8% indicate they do not allow smoking in their vehicles. *The number of smokers who **do not** allow smoking in either their homes has increased from 35% in 2006 to 44.3% in 2008. In addition, 39% of smokers **do not** allow smoking in their vehicles.*

OUTDOOR SECONDHAND SMOKE EXPOSURE

- ✓ There appears to be high level of support for reducing second-hand smoke exposure at public outdoor locations, with over 83% of residents supporting either restricting or completely eliminating cigarette smoking at each of public beaches, parks, playgrounds, outdoor music festivals and concerts, and areas around public building entryways.
- ✓ The greatest support was for restricting smoking or not allowing it at all at playgrounds and public building entryways (79.6% for medical facilities or hospitals, 94.1% for playgrounds, 90.2% for public building entryways).
- ✓ *Even among current cigarette smokers*, there is high degree of support for restricting smoking in public outdoor venues. For example, 86% of *Onondaga County current smokers* believe that smoking at playgrounds should be restricted, and 67.8% believe that smoking around public building entryways should be restricted.

* Based on telephone survey of 500 adult Onondaga County residents, 18 years or older in May 2008