

**Philadelphia Department of Public Health  
Tobacco Control Program  
Worksite Smoking Survey**

**Results**

566 respondents completed the Worksite Smoking Survey at the end of February 2005. The most common industries that respondents reported working in were: healthcare (include doctors, dental, other medical, psychology); education; law; automotive; churches/religious organizations; beauty; retail; human/social services; and real estate. Results from the survey are reported in the tables below.

<b>How many people work at your company at this location (including full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees)?</b>	Percent
<b>1-4</b>	<b>41.7</b>
5-19	32.6
20-99	18.3
100-499	5.7
500+	1.8

<b>Which of the following describes your worksite's policy toward smoking?</b>	Percent
<b>Official policy</b>	<b>69.5</b>
Unofficial policy	20.5
No policy	10.0

<b>Who is responsible for establishing the smoking policy at your worksite? (multiple responses permitted)</b>	Percent
<b>The owner</b>	<b>62.2</b>
On-site managers	23.3
Corporate management at another site	8.0
Non-management employees at your worksite	1.2
Other	7.4
Don't know	1.2
Not applicable; no smoking policy	3.2

**Smoking policies and/or practices for employees at your worksite in the following areas:**

Area	<b>No smoking at all (Percent)</b>	Smoking in some places (Percent)	Smoking in all places (Percent)
Indoor public areas (i.e. lobbies, restrooms)	<b>93.2</b>	4.7	2.2
Indoor work areas (i.e. offices, cubicles,	<b>93.9</b>	4.3	1.9

conference rooms)			
Indoor non-work areas (i.e. employee lounge, break room, cafeteria)	<b>90.9</b>	7.3	1.8
Outdoor areas on property*	33.3	33.3	33.3

\* Survey question contained a large amount of missing data.

<b>Policy regarding smoking at building entrances:*</b>	Percent
<b>No policy; smoking is allowed</b>	<b>58.9</b>
Smoking is not allowed	28.4
Smoking is not allowed within X feet of entrance (average was 23.7 feet)	12.7
<b>Is smoking allowed in company vehicles?</b>	
Yes	10.8
No	42.9
<b>Not applicable; no company vehicles</b>	<b>46.2</b>
<b>Does your company's policy prohibit the use of smokeless tobacco products (i.e. chew or spit tobacco)?</b>	
Yes	41.4
<b>No</b>	<b>58.6</b>

\* Survey question contained a large amount of missing data.

<b>Main reasons for restricting smoking at your worksite?</b> (multiple responses permitted)	Percent
Smoking is not restricted at all	3.5
Cleanliness (i.e. tobacco stains, ashes, or cigarette butts)	55.7
Collective bargaining unit	0.9
Customer demand	14.3
Employee preference/request	38.0
Fire or safety reasons	54.2
<b>Health concerns</b>	<b>73.9</b>
Increase work productivity	15.9
Owner of worksite building determines policy	27.2
Reduce health insurance or other insurance costs	13.1
Reduce the risk of legal action	9.4
Regulatory or licensing reasons	7.4

Other*	12.5
Don't know	1.2

\* Other responses written in included:

- 1.) work with children (such as in a school, childcare, residential facility) where there were health concerns being around children and also setting a bad example; it was also school district policy;
- 2.) religion-related reasons, including the worksite was a religious establishment, church policy, and ethical/spiritual beliefs;
- 3.) the owner/employer didn't like smoking for various reasons (allergy, smell, health issues);
- 4.) other reasons related to the nature of the business, such as a doctor's/medical office, volatile chemicals, or clothing.

<b>Which of the following your company does to encourage employees to quit smoking:*</b>	Yes (Percent)	No (Percent)
Offer health insurance plans which include smoking cessation programs as a benefit.	32.0	<b>68.0</b>
Sponsor smoking cessation programs within the company.	9.7	<b>90.3</b>
Pay for employees to attend off-site smoking cessation programs.	3.3	<b>96.8</b>
Have a collective bargaining agreement with a labor union that restricts smoking.	2.1	<b>97.9</b>
Distribute smoking cessation materials	14.8	<b>85.2</b>
Restrict smoking to designated areas or tobacco prevention materials	39.0	<b>61.1</b>
Other**	6.4	<b>93.6</b>

\* Survey questions contained a large amount of missing data.

\*\* The most common written responses were that no one smoked in their workplace, a no-smoking policy was in place, and personal and verbal encouragement and advice.

17.3% of respondents were interested in receiving more information or a free assessment about how to encourage their employees to quit using tobacco products or assistance in developing or improving existing smoking policies. Some particular items written in were: materials, pamphlets, literature, posters, educational programs, and dealing with compliance.

Most respondents did not write any additional comments; many that did referred to the fact that they did not have any employees who smoked (particularly smaller businesses).