

# Smoke-Free Housing Survey Summary 2023

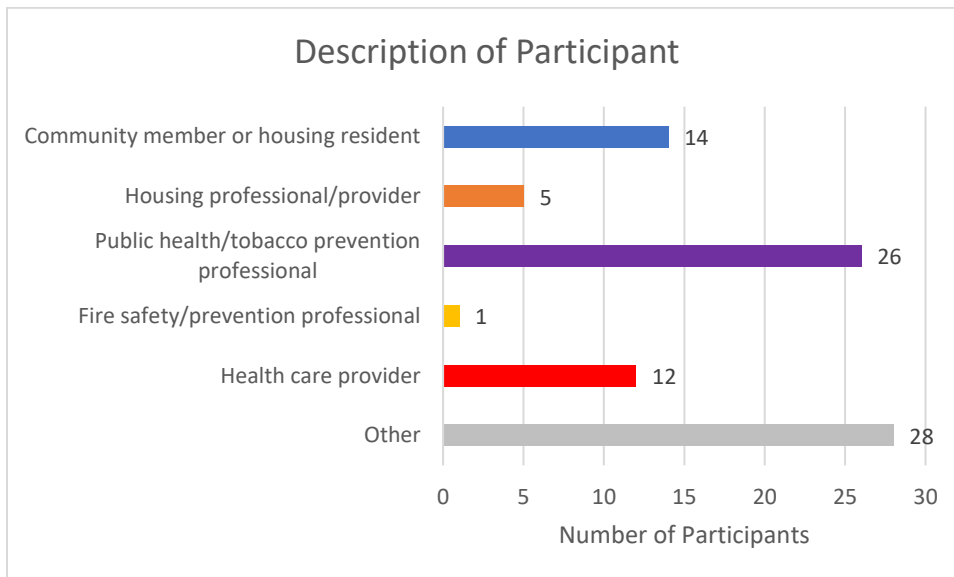
Amanda Gallaher, Tobacco Policy Consultant, & Mohammed Saqib, Public Health Consultant - Evaluator  
Tobacco Section, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

## Introduction

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Tobacco Section surveyed **76** participants regarding smoking-free housing initiatives and resources with the goal of determining next steps for the smoke-free housing program. In January and February of 2023, the survey was distributed through Tobacco Control Program (TCP) and Tobacco Use Reduction for People Living with HIV (TURP) Program newsletters, as well as through the networks of TCP’s partner organizations and other housing associations. The results of this survey are summarized below.

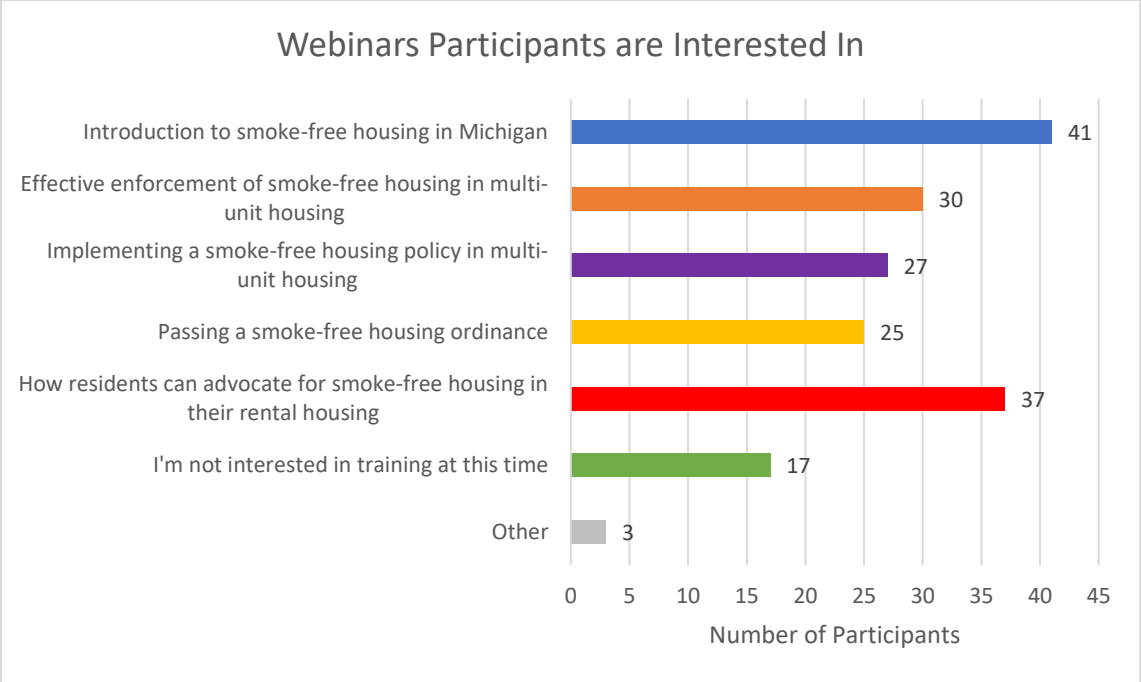
## Who Was Represented

Respondents were asked to select one of five descriptions that best fit them alongside an “Other” category: Community member or housing resident, housing professional/provider, public health/tobacco prevention professional, fire safety/prevention professional, or health care provider. Most respondents indicated that they did not fit into one of the 5 provided categories and selected the “Other” option. Examples of these individuals include case managers, daycare owners, social workers, and people from child protective services. Of the categories provided, most respondents identified that they were public health or tobacco prevention professionals. Notably, only 5 of the 76 respondents (6.6%) were housing providers or professionals.



## Preferred Training Areas

In order to gauge what areas of training would be most relevant to partners, respondents were asked to select which of the following webinars they would be interested in attending (more than one answer could be selected): Introduction to smoke-free housing in Michigan, Effective enforcement of smoke-free housing in multi-unit housing, Implementing a smoke-free housing policy in multi-unit housing, Passing a smoke-free housing ordinance, and How residents can advocate for smoke-free housing in their rental housing. An “I’m not interested in training at this time” and an “Other” category were also included.



Most respondents did show interest in receiving some form of training, with the most popular choices being the introductory webinar and the residents’ advocacy webinar. Passing a smoke-free housing ordinance was the least popular webinar option, followed by implementing a smoke-free housing policy in multi-unit housing. Given that “working with local governments to pass smoke-free housing ordinances” and “working with housing owners/managers to pass voluntary smoke-free housing policies” were high priority initiatives among respondents (see section below), this may be more indicative of respondents feeling comfortable in these areas as opposed to not being interested in passing such ordinances or creating such policies.

**Smoke-free Housing Priority Areas**

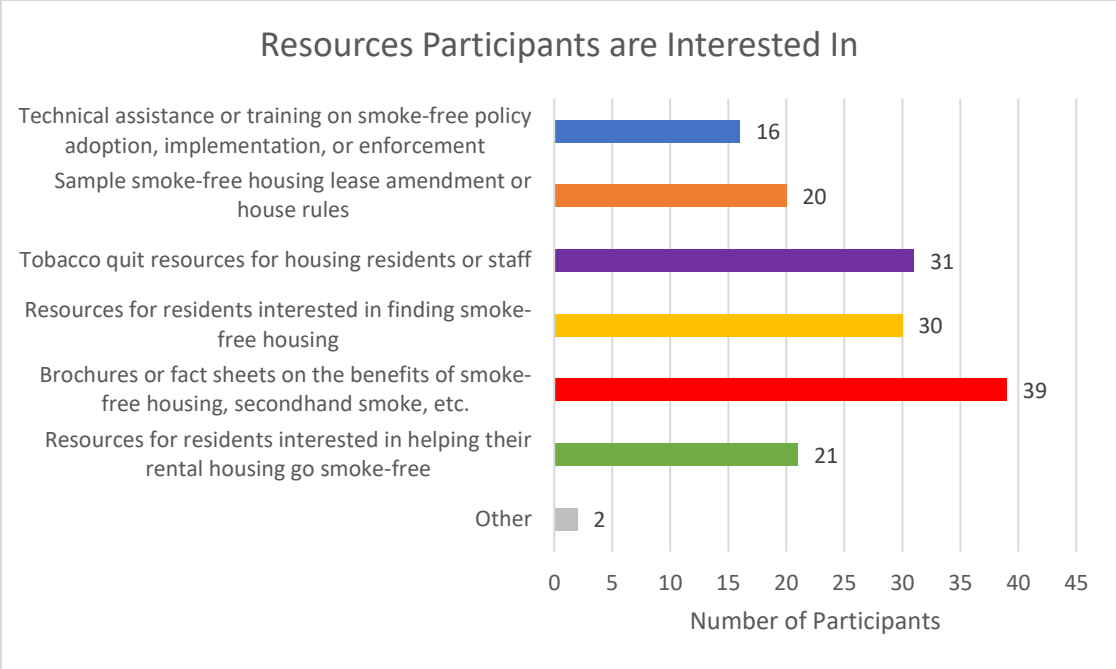
Respondents were asked to rank the following 8 smoke-free housing initiatives by priority: Working with housing owners/managers to pass voluntary smoke-free housing policies, Working with local governments to pass smoke-free housing ordinances, Creating an outreach program to encourage smoke-free housing in response to new construction, fires, or resident complaints, Creating an awards program for smoke-free housing providers, Educating the public about the harms of secondhand smoke and e-cigarette aerosol, smoking-related fire hazards, etc., Surveying property owners/managers and residents to assess the need and desire for smoke-free housing in Michigan, Creating a database to help residents find smoke-free housing, and Improving smoke-free housing resources for housing providers with the adoption of voluntary policies. The table below shows how the initiative rank against each other based on a sum score (with a theoretical range of 76 to 608, reverse ordered such that a higher score indicates a higher ranking) and percentage of “first pick” in the event of a tie, such as is the case with the rank 2 and 3 options.

Rank	Options	Score	First Pick	Last Pick
1	Educating the public about the harms of secondhand smoke and e-cigarette aerosol, smoking-related fire hazards, etc.	428	22.4%	3.9%
2	Working with local governments to pass smoke-free housing ordinances	397	25.0%	7.9%
3	Working with housing owners/managers to pass voluntary smoke-free housing policies	397	7.9%	1.3%
4	Creating an outreach program to encourage smoke-free housing in response to new construction, fires, or resident complaints	388	10.5%	2.6%
5	Surveying property owners/managers and residents to assess the need and desire for smoke-free housing in Michigan	324	17.1%	11.8%
6	Creating a database to help residents find smoke-free housing	296	7.9%	10.5%
7	Improving smoke-free housing resources for housing providers with the adoption of voluntary policies	264	6.6%	36.8%
8	Creating an awards program for smoke-free housing providers	242	2.6%	25.0%

Overall, educating the public was seen as the highest priority while creating an awards program for smoke-free housing providers was seen as the lowest priority. Working with local governments to pass smoke-free housing ordinances was most often the highest priority for respondents, with this being picked first 25% of the time.

[Requested Resources](#)

Respondents were asked which of 6 potential resources they would be interested in receiving: Technical assistance or training on smoke-free policy adoption, implementation, or enforcement, Sample smoke-free housing lease amendment or house rules, Tobacco quit resources for housing residents or staff, Resources for residents interested in finding smoke-free housing, Brochures or fact sheets on the benefits of smoke-free housing, secondhand smoke, etc., and Resources for residents interested in helping their rental housing go smoke-free. Like before, an “Other” category was also included. Respondents could select more than one choice.

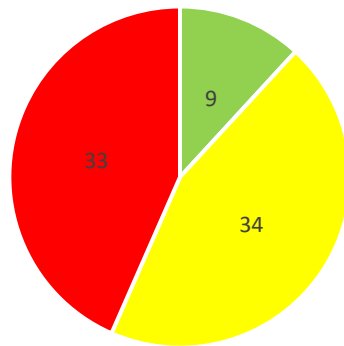


In line with respondents noting that educating the public was their top priority, when asked about what smoke-free housing resources respondents would be most interested in (respondents could choose more than one), brochures or fact sheets on the benefits of smoke-free housing, secondhand smoke, etc. emerged as the most popular option (i.e., materials that can be used to educate the public). Tobacco quit resources for housing residents or staff and resources for residents interested in finding smoke-free housing were also popular choices, despite the section above showing that improving smoke-free housing resources for housing providers and creating a database to help residents find smoke-free housing are relatively low priority initiatives. These results may reflect the resources that respondents are most likely to use, rather than the overall need for resources to support smoke-free housing and the priority areas described above.

[Smoke-free Housing Workgroup](#)

When asked about joining a smoke-free housing workgroup, 9 of the 76 respondents answered with “yes” and another 34 answered with “maybe, please provide more information”. This suggests that there is some interest in creating such a workgroup but warrants further investigation as to what the expectations for this workgroup would be and what might be reasons why the “maybes” are undecided.

## Participant Interest in Joining a Smoke-free Housing Workgroup



■ Yes ■ Maybe, please provide more information ■ No

### Next Steps

The primary goal of this survey was to help determine next steps for the smoke-free housing program. The following are potential next steps based on the survey responses:

- **Webinars** - Offer webinars addressing the topics that garnered the most interest including an introduction to smoke-free housing, residents' advocacy, and effective enforcement. Trainings may also need to be developed to support priorities (see below).
- **Priorities** – Develop programming and offer technical assistance to support public education, pass smoke-free ordinances, and support voluntary smoke-free housing policies. If there is sufficient interest in a workgroup, these could be the group's primary focus. Given the disconnect between webinars and resources of interest and the two policy-focused options among the top three priorities, it may be necessary to build policy and advocacy-related skills and identify partners capable of moving these priorities forward.
- **Resources** - Share the resources that participants expressed the most interest in, including the brochures or fact sheets, quit resources, and resources for residents interested in finding smoke-free housing.
- **Workgroup** - Further assess whether to create a smoke-free housing workgroup. Given the high number of "maybe" responses, this warrants further exploration, such as a trial meeting, to determine whether there is sufficient interest from partners to sustain an ongoing workgroup.

### Contact Information

To ask questions about this survey or request smoke-free housing resources, training, or technical assistance, please utilize the contact information below:

Tobacco Section, Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Control  
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services  
Elliott-Larsen Building 5-N, PO Box 30815, Lansing, MI 48909  
Phone: 517-335-8376; Fax: 517-335-9669  
Email: [MDHHS-TobaccoSection@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-TobaccoSection@michigan.gov)  
Website: [www.michigan.gov/tobacco](http://www.michigan.gov/tobacco)