

Support for Smoke-Free Multi-Unit Dwellings

Health indicator report

Background

- The purpose of this health indicator report is to assess the support among adults aged 18 and over in Halton Region for legislation to make multi-unit dwellings (MUDs) smoke-free.
- The Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA, 2017) was established to help reduce Ontarians' exposure to second-hand smoke and vapour in enclosed areas such as public places and workplaces, restaurants, bars, casinos, vehicles and common areas of multi-unit dwellings (MUDs).¹ However, second-hand smoke can still seep into MUDs from neighbouring dwellings through shared indoor spaces, ventilation systems, windows and doors.¹ Second-hand smoke is known to cause cancer, respiratory problems, coronary heart disease and stroke. It has also been linked to respiratory problems, low birth weight and an increased risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) in children.¹
- Smoke-free MUD policies also have clear economic and property protection benefits to landlords.² Smoke-free MUDs have lower maintenance and repair costs, higher resale values, reduced insurance premiums and a lower risk of fire damage than smoker units.²
- This Health Indicator Report uses data from the Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS).

Key findings

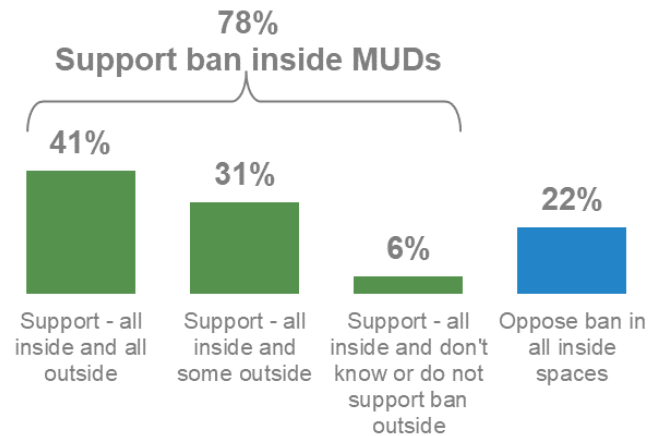
- In 2017, 78% of Halton adults reported that they would support a ban on smoking inside multi-unit dwellings (MUDs).
- Adults in the middle and high income groups, and post-secondary graduates were more likely to report that they would support a ban on smoking inside all MUDs.
- Former and never smokers were more likely than current smokers to report that they would support a ban on smoking inside all MUDs.
- Adults who do not live in MUDs were more likely than adults who live in MUDs to report that they would support a ban on smoking inside all MUDs.



Support for smoke-free MUDs

Halton

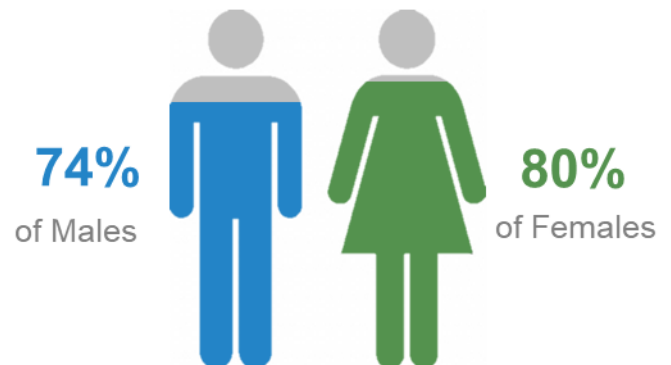
- In 2017, 78% of Halton adults reported that they would support a ban on smoking inside all multi-unit dwellings (MUDs). Specifically:
 - 41% would support a ban in all inside and outside spaces,
 - 31% would support a ban in all inside and some outside spaces,
 - 6% would support a ban in all inside spaces and either don't know or would not support a ban in outside spaces.



Support for smoke free MUDs, adults aged 18 and over, Halton Region, 2017

Sex

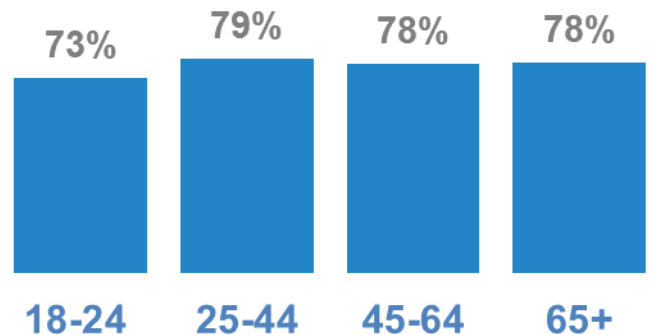
- In 2017, there was no statistically significant difference by sex in the percentage of adults who reported that they would support a ban on smoking inside all MUDs.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported that they would support a ban on smoking inside MUDs, by sex, Halton Region, 2017

Age

- In 2017, there were no statistically significant differences by age group in the percentage of adults who reported that they would support a ban on smoking inside all MUDs.



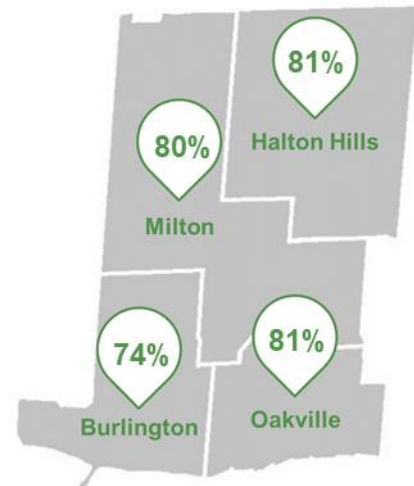
Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported that they would support a ban on smoking inside MUDs, by age, Halton Region, 2017



Support for smoke-free MUDs

Municipality

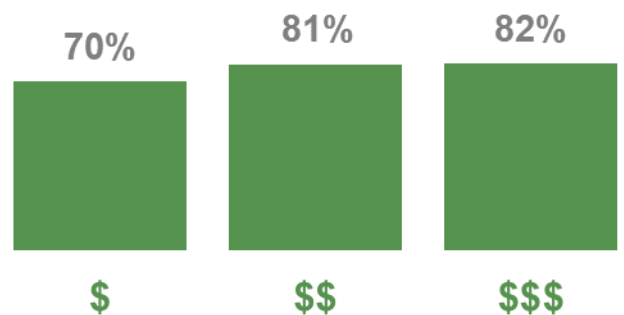
- In 2017, there were no statistically significant differences by municipality in the percentage of adults who reported that they would support a ban on smoking inside all MUDs.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported that they would support a ban on smoking inside MUDs, by municipality, Halton Region, 2017

Income

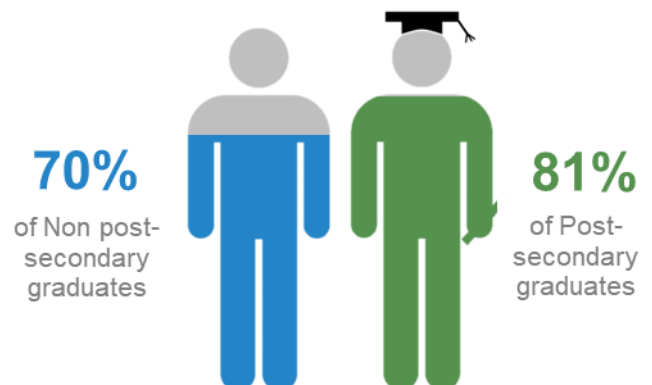
- In 2017, adults in the high and middle income groups were more likely than those in the low income group to report that they would support a ban on smoking inside all MUDs. These differences were **statistically significant**.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported that they would support a ban on smoking inside MUDs, by income group, Halton Region, 2017

Education

- In 2017, adults aged 25 and over who were post-secondary graduates were more likely than non-post secondary graduates to report that they would support a ban on smoking inside all MUDs. This difference was **statistically significant**.



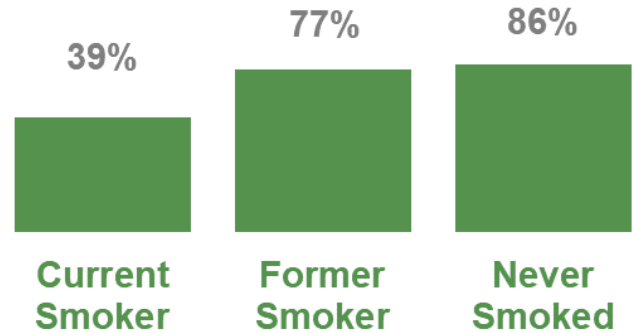
Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported that they would support a ban on smoking inside MUDs, by education, Halton Region, 2017



Support for smoke-free MUDs

Smoking Status

- In 2017, never smokers were the most likely to report that they would support a ban on smoking inside all MUDs, followed by former smokers and then current smokers. These differences were all **statistically significant**.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported that they would support a ban on smoking inside MUDs, by smoking status, Halton Region, 2017

Dwelling type

- In 2017, adults who did not live in MUDs were more likely than those who live in MUDs to support a ban on smoking inside all MUDs. This difference was **statistically significant**.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported that they would support a ban on smoking inside MUDs, by dwelling type, Halton Region, 2017

About RRFSS

- The Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System is an on-going telephone survey (land line and cell phone) used to collect information on attitudes, behaviours, knowledge and awareness of issues related to health in Halton. RRFSS is conducted by the Institute of Social Research and York University.
- Each year, a random sample of approximately 1,200 adults aged 18 and over are surveyed in Halton Region.
- In 2016, RRFSS underwent changes in sampling and analysis methodology. **Therefore, it is not recommended to compare data from the 2016 onwards to past years of RRFSS data.**
- For more information on RRFSS methodology and limitations, see the RRFSS Data Notes and Data Interpretation Guide at halton.ca

Data notes

Definitions:

A **multi-unit dwelling (MUD)** is a residential building with shared walls or living spaces. This includes apartment buildings, condos, semi-detached houses, duplexes, townhouses, row houses, and seniors or retirement homes. **All outside spaces** includes all outdoor property around the building; **some outside spaces** only includes spaces near doors, windows or air vents. **Support** includes those who somewhat support or strongly support a smoking ban in MUDs and **oppose** includes those who somewhat oppose or strongly oppose a smoking ban in MUDs.

Current smokers are adults who have smoked over 100 cigarettes in their lifetime, and currently smoke some days or every day. **Former smokers** are adults who have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime, but do not currently smoke. **Never smoked** are adults who have smoked less than 100 cigarettes in their lifetime.

Data Source: Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System [2017], Halton Region Health Department and Institute for Social Research, York University.

References

1. Smoke-Free Housing Ontario. 2016. Landlords. Accessed October 2016 from <http://smokefreehousingon.ca/landlords/>
2. The Ontario Tobacco Research Unit. 2014. Tobacco smoke entering homes in multi-unit dwellings in Ontario. Accessed October 2016 from http://otru.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/update_aug2014_v2.pdf

For more health indicator and health status reports, visit Halton Region's Health Statistics website on halton.ca

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