

# TOBACCO *Facts*

## North Dakotans Support Smoke-Free Environments

In 2008, North Dakota's Public Education on Tobacco Task Force commissioned a study to assess the opinions of people about several items relating to tobacco use and secondhand smoke. Included in the study were questions about things like where smoking should be allowed, what people think about expanding the current smoke-free law to include bars and lounges and how often people would visit bars and lounges if they were all smoke-free.

Conducted by Winkelman Consulting of Fargo, the study was based on a random-sample telephone survey of 1,728 North Dakotans 18 and older.

► **More than 64 percent of North Dakota adults surveyed support expanding the state smoke-free law to prohibit smoking in all North Dakota workplaces, including bars and lounges.**

Of the 64 percent, nearly 47 percent strongly support expanding the law and 17 percent somewhat support expanding the law. Only 16 percent of people strongly opposed and 9 percent somewhat opposed expanding the smoke-free law.

► **About 90 percent of the North Dakotans surveyed felt that secondhand smoke would be harmful to the health of the nonsmoker working in a business where smoking is allowed.** This included 52 percent who said it would be very harmful, nearly 25 percent who said it would be harmful and 13 percent who said it would be somewhat harmful.

► **Nearly 88 percent of the adults surveyed said secondhand smoke would be harmful to the health of the nonsmoker who frequently visits public places where smoking is allowed.** This

included 41 percent who said it would be very harmful, nearly 32 percent who said it would be harmful and 15 percent who said it would be somewhat harmful.

► **If all bars and lounges in their community were completely smoke-free, nearly 76 percent of the respondents said they would go out either more often or just as often.** Specifically, 13 percent said they would go out much more often, 24 percent said they would go out somewhat more often and 39 percent said they would go out just as often.

► **Overall support for smoke-free workplaces continues to grow. In 2008, 92 percent of adults 18 to 54 felt smoking should not be allowed in private business – an increase from 2002 when the percentage stood at 54 percent.** In 2008, 40 percent of those asked felt smoking should be prohibited on the business grounds as well.



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