

More rental units ban smoking

By **PAIGE PARKER**
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More Portland-area landlords prohibit smoking than did three years ago, but the majority of units still allow it, according to a survey by the American Lung Association in Oregon and the Portland-Vancouver Metro Area Smokefree Housing Project.

About 22 percent of Portland-area renters said their landlords prohibit smoking inside their living space, compared with 17 percent three years ago. That translates to about 13,000 more smoke-free rentals than were on

the market in 2006, the last time the survey was conducted.

While smoking may not be banned in their rentals, nine out of 10 renters surveyed said they rarely or never smoke in their homes, and 76 percent said they rarely or never experience secondhand smoke at home. Three-hundred renters in the Oregon and southwest Washington were surveyed.

According to the American Lung Association, exposure to secondhand smoke increases a non-smoker's risk of developing heart disease by 25 to 30 percent and

lung cancer by 20 to 30 percent.

The Smokefree Housing Project is a collaboration of the Clark, Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington county health departments and the American Lung Association in Oregon. The group touts the health and business benefits of smoke-free housing, and offers assistance to landlords considering smoking bans.

For more: www.lungoregon.org;
www.smokefreehousingNW.com

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