

Executive Summary:

Oregon Community College Students and Tobacco

This analysis is based on a telephone survey of 500 Oregon students attending Chemeketa, Treasure Valley and Umpqua Community Colleges. The survey was conducted May 27 through June 6, 2007. The margin of error is plus or minus 4.4 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The margin of error for subgroups varies and is higher.

Exposure of Students to Secondhand Smoke on Campus

83% of students agree that “daily exposure to even small amounts of secondhand smoke is a serious health risk”.

54% say they are exposed to secondhand smoke on campus at least a few times a week. **34%** are exposed to secondhand smoke every day.

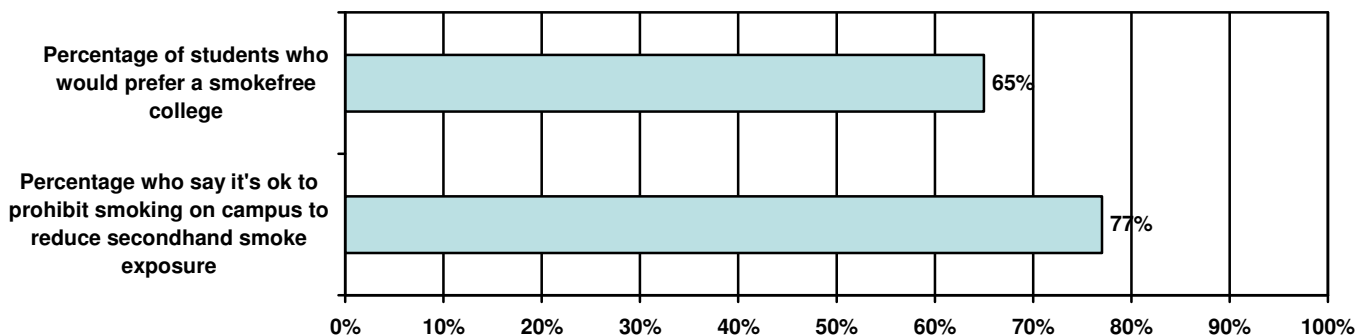
71% say they are bothered by secondhand smoke on campus.

19% say they have experienced immediate health effects from secondhand smoke on campus.

Student Opinions Concerning Prohibiting Smoking on Campus

Two-thirds of students agree that they would choose a “smokefree” college over a college that allows smoking on campus. **47%** strongly agree.

Three-quarters of community college students believe it’s ok to prohibit smoking on campus if that is what it takes to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke. **53%** strongly agree



Key Findings & Observations Related to Secondhand Smoke and Campus Policy

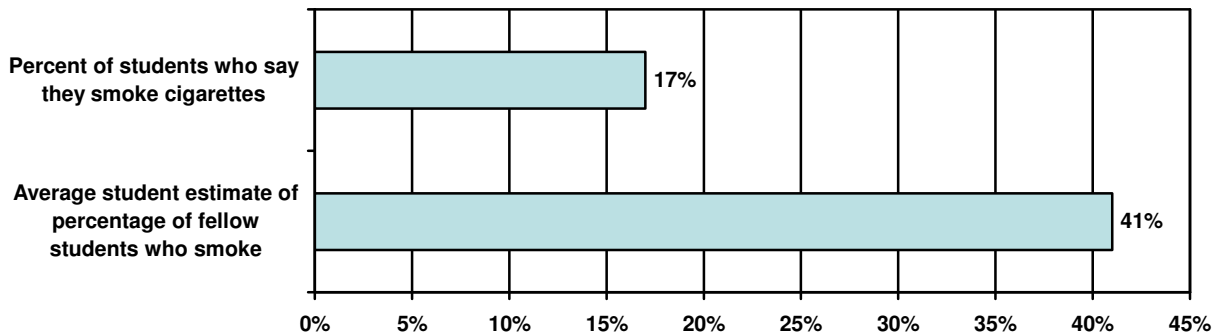
- The strong student support for prohibiting smoking on campus is not surprising given the high number of students who agree that secondhand smoke poses a serious health risk, and the large number indicating they have experienced health problems from secondhand smoke exposure on campus.
- As the data indicates, it should come as no surprise that a significant majority of Oregon community college students surveyed prefer a “smokefree” campus. This mirrors public opinion regarding secondhand smoke that we have seen in surveys of the general public.

Community College Student Smoking

Among community college students surveyed at these three colleges, **17%** say they smoke cigarettes every day, some days, or hardly ever.

Perception of Smoking by Peers

On the average, students thought that **41%** of their fellow students smoke. **67%** believe over one-quarter of their student body smokes.



Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Education

Slightly less than one in five students report having received tobacco prevention or quit smoking information from their college.

Quit Intention and Awareness of Quit Resources

59% of students who smoke said they have stopped smoking one day or longer during the past 12 months because they were trying to quit.

Only one-third of students say they have heard of the Oregon Tobacco Quit Line. **47%** of smokers knew of this resource.

Key Findings and Observations Related to Student Tobacco Use:

- While it is clear that most students want to quit and/or have tried to quit smoking, fewer students have the awareness of, or have received education about, quitting resources.
- Most students significantly overestimate the number of their peers that smoke.
- Results from questions related to alcohol consumption and other health topics in the survey can be found in the full "Report of Findings", which has been distributed to the Council of Student Services Administrators. Of those findings, perhaps most relevant to the discussion of smoking policy is that 9% of community college students say they have asthma. This is similar to the current adult asthma rate in Oregon of 10%.
- Other relevant findings include the fact that those who drink alcohol are more likely than the general student population to smoke. Additionally, students who have been diagnosed with depression are far more likely to smoke than their peers.