



*Montana Tobacco Use Prevention  
Program Multi-unit Smokefree  
Housing Project*



## **Today I will talk about...**

The dangers of secondhand and thirdhand tobacco smoke in living environments

National trends and Montana trends and the MTUPP Smokefree Housing project

How you can get involved!



*Why Rent-restricted Multi-unit Smokefree Housing?*



***Dr. Robert Shepard***  
***Retired Family Practice Physician***  
***and Former New West Health Director***  
***Helena, Montana***



## **What We Know about Secondhand and Tobacco Smoke Exposure**

*“There is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke. It is a serious health hazard that can lead to disease and premature death in children and nonsmoking adults.”*

2006 U.S. Surgeon General’s Report

***As many as 175 Montanans die annually from exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke.***



**Children living in buildings where smoking is allowed have higher levels of nicotine markers in their blood.**

Secondhand smoke can seep into apartments where no one smokes through shared walls, ventilation systems and ductwork.

Secondhand smoke is absorbed into furniture, carpets, curtains, clothing, toys, etc. that children come into contact with and put in their mouths.



## **Secondhand Smoke Cannot be Controlled**

*“At present the only means of effectively eliminating the health risks associated with indoor exposure is to ban smoking activity.”*

American Society of Heating, Refrigerating  
&  
Air-Conditioning Engineers



# *ARRA Project Overview*



## **Project Goals**

- 1. Reducing secondhand tobacco smoke exposure in the home among vulnerable, at-risk Montanans, including children and seniors;**
- 2. increasing capacity by continuing to build and sustain existing coalitions;**
- 3. increasing capacity by adding new groups and individuals who support smokefree and tobacco prevention policies.**



## **Project Objectives**

1. By January 2011, help the two Montana public housing authorities that already have smokefree policies achieve high compliance with their policies.
2. By January 2012, have three additional public housing authorities adopt comprehensive smokefree housing policies



## **Project Objectives (continued)**

3. By January 2012, have 25% of all other rent-restricted, multi-unit housing (non-public housing authority) governed by comprehensive smokefree policies.
4. By January 2012, have two communities adopt incentives policies for builders, owners, and managers who receive rent-restricted housing construction money for adopting comprehensive smokefree policies.



## **Project Activities**

Statewide assessment, stakeholder interviews, local assessments, trainings, webinar, cultivation of local coalitions and spokespersons; local outreach and presentations to decision makers; development of educational materials, signage, and a web page; paid media; and evaluation.



# *Best Practices in Policy Campaigns*



## Policy Campaign Flow Chart

### **Stage One: Start-Up**

- Assessment
- Entering the Community

### **Stage Two:**

Describing the “WHY”

### **Stage Three:**

Describing and showing support for the “WHAT”

### **Stage Four:**

Implementing the Policy



*National Trends*  
*Montana Assessment and*  
*Tenant Survey Results*



## **Clean Indoor Air Law** **Montana's Clean Indoor Air Act**

**With the passage of Montana's Clean Indoor Air Act in 2005 and full implementation in October of 2009 all indoor workplaces and public places are now required to be smokefree.**



## **HUD Weighs In**

*HUD strongly encourages public housing authorities and multifamily housing rental assistance programs to implement Non-Smoking policies for some or all of the units they own or manage.*

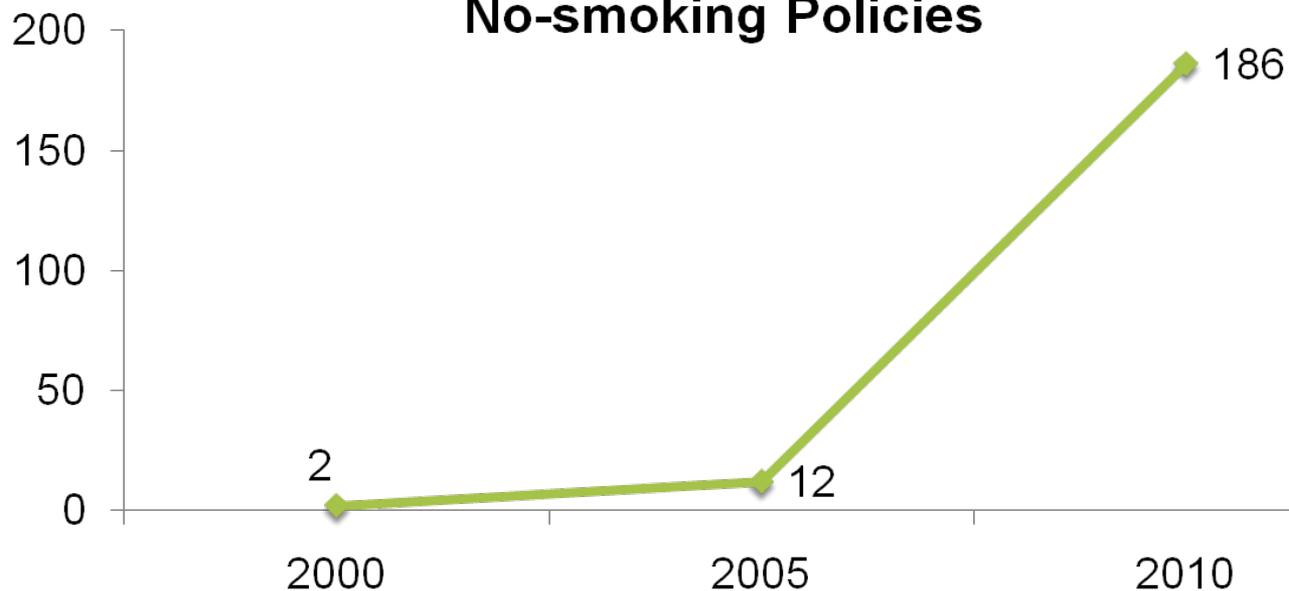
HUD Notice PIH-2009-21(HA)  
HUD Notice H-2010-21



## National Trend in Public Housing

\*This represents an increase of over 1,000% over the last 68 months

### Public Housing Authorities in the U.S. with No-smoking Policies





## Look Familiar?

Clean-up after a smoker...nicotine coats everything



Portland Tribune photos



## **Costs Differences to Rehabilitate Apartments Smoked-in or Not Smoked-in Units:**

**It costs \$2,665 more to turn an apartment unit after it has been smoked-in for 5-7 years.**

**It is 92% more costly for a smoked-in unit.**

**Bill Batson, Housing Maintenance Manager,  
Senior Services of Snohomish County, May 2009**

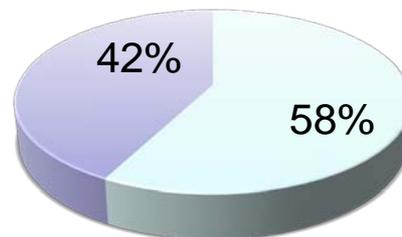


## Public Housing Assessment Results

9 of 19 Montana Housing Authorities had adopted various levels of existing policy (1 has facility/campus wide policy, 4 have facility wide policy, 4 have policy in some properties)

Of 144 rent-restricted multi-unit facilities surveyed: 83 (58%) have various levels of policy, 61 (42%) have no policy.

□ Has Smokefree Policy    ■ No Policy





## **What we know from the Montana Multi-unit Public Housing Community**

**Owners and managers are choosing not to ignore the problems that can result from a smoking in multi-unit facilities and are finding that keeping the smoke out is the best way to retain both residents and profits.**



## **What we know from Montana renters:**

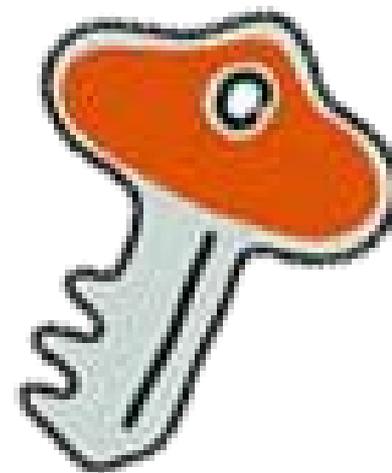
Less than 20% of Montanans living in multi-unit housing are protected by a smokefree policy set by their landlord.

Of Montana multi-unit renters who do not have a smokefree policy in their building or complex, the majority (85%) were in favor of their landlords adopting a smokefree policy.

***2008 Montana Adult Tobacco Survey***



- **Safe & healthy housing is key to a person's physical safety and well-being.**
- **Homes should not pose a serious health hazard to the people who live there.**





## **How rent-restricted, multi-unit apartment owners and managers can provide Safe and Healthy Housing if you haven't already**

A smokefree multi-unit housing policy is a relatively simple and affordable way for Housing Authorities and/or owners and managers who are part of federal rent-assisted programs to:

- Improve indoor air quality
- Improve resident health
  - Improve risk of fire

...while saving on maintenance and cleaning costs!



**Remember...a smokefree policy  
doesn't mean "no smokers"**

**It just means NO-SMOKING**



# *Ways to get Involved!*



## *Smokefree Housing*

- Get informed...visit the MTUPP webpage and review the factsheets.
- Set up a meeting with your local Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program Specialist to discuss this opportunity and how you can help at the local level.
- Weigh in with Montana Department of Housing during the 2012 Qualified Action Plan process about including a smokefree incentive point in the application process for low-income and affordable housing tax credits. We recommend that applicants receive 1 or more points for including a 100% smokefree building policy in their proposed project.



*Questions?*



Thank you and if you have additional questions please feel free to contact:

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