

Highlights of the 2006 MSUM Secondhand Smoke Study of Students and Faculty/Staff, February 2007

Study Design

- Two surveys were conducted in October/November 2006, at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM): a random sample of students and a census of faculty/staff. A total of 184 students participated, ensuring a representative sample of students with an error rate of 7% and a confidence level of 95%. A total of 272 faculty/staff participated. The complete report and briefing points are available at www.ndsu.edu/sdc/publications.htm.

Key Findings

Opinions and Perceptions of Tobacco and Secondhand Smoke Issues

| | <u>Students</u> | <u>Faculty/staff</u> |
|---|---|----------------------|
| | <i>Where 1 is "strongly disagree" and 5 is "strongly agree"</i> | |
| ▪ Smoking and secondhand smoke are important health issues. | | |
| ○ Smoking causes physical effects, such as reduced endurance. | Mean=4.43 | Mean=4.55 |
| ○ Smoking can lead to long-term physical illnesses. | Mean=4.68 | Mean=4.67 |
| ○ Secondhand smoke is a health issue. | Mean=4.40 | Mean=4.75 |
| ▪ Tobacco use should be regulated. | | |
| ○ Responsibility of campus administration to protect campus. | Mean=3.76 | Mean=4.28 |
| ○ Litter caused by smoking detracts from campus appearance. | Mean=4.23 | Mean=4.70 |
| | <u>Students</u> | <u>Faculty/staff</u> |
| ▪ 97% of students and 84% of faculty/staff are regularly exposed to secondhand smoke. | | |
| ○ On campus - entrances into campus buildings | 71% | 76% |
| ○ On campus - on way to classes/work | 66% | 47% |
| ○ Bars/cocktail lounges | 57% | 49% |
| ○ Off campus - entrances into buildings | 43% | 41% |
| ○ The homes of friends/family members | 42% | 16% |

Preferences/Opinions Regarding Campus Smoking Policies

- 69% of students and 82% of faculty/staff at MSUM know the existing campus smoking policy.
- The vast majority of students and faculty/staff say the smoking policy is not enforced well outdoors.
- 43% of students and 66% of faculty/staff are *very likely* to support a smoke-free campus policy.
- Only 11% of students and 3% of faculty/staff say they would be less likely to attend or work at MSUM if a smoke-free campus policy was implemented.

Campus Community's Experiences with Tobacco and Secondhand Smoke

- 34% of students and 12% of faculty/staff are tobacco users; 13% of students and 7% of faculty/staff are "regular users" of tobacco.
- The vast majority of smokers start smoking before finishing high school.
- The greatest influence on smokers to start smoking is peers.
- Only 21% of students and 16% of faculty/staff are not interested in quitting smoking.
- Among smokers, 46% of students and 29% of faculty/staff have tried to quit smoking within the last 12 months. The majority of those trying to quit have had multiple attempts.