

SMOKING AND TOBACCO USE AMONG UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE STUDENTS AND THEIR PERCEPTIONS ON SMOKE/TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUS POLICY

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BACKGROUND

- More than **90%** of smokers start smoking between the ages of 18 and 26 years—the typical age range for most college students
- While more than **1,100** colleges nationwide are smoke/tobacco free, almost all of the colleges in Alaska are not, including University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA).

RESEARCH AIM

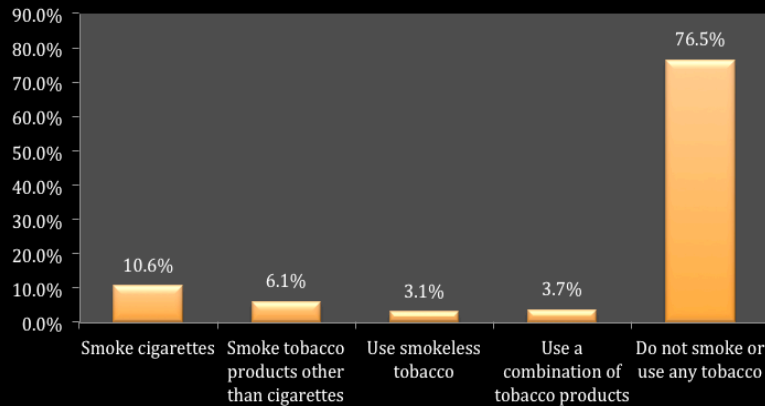
To assess the feasibility of having a comprehensive smoke or tobacco-free policy at UAA.

METHODS

- Self-administered online survey was distributed to a representative sample of UAA students in Fall Semester 2013.
- Sample Size: 562
 - 37% Males | 63% Females
 - 66% Full-time | 34% Part-time
 - College Level:
 - 24% Freshman
 - 19% Sophomores
 - 19% Juniors
 - 22% Seniors
 - 16% Graduate Students

RESULTS

Rates of Tobacco Use at UAA, Fall 2013

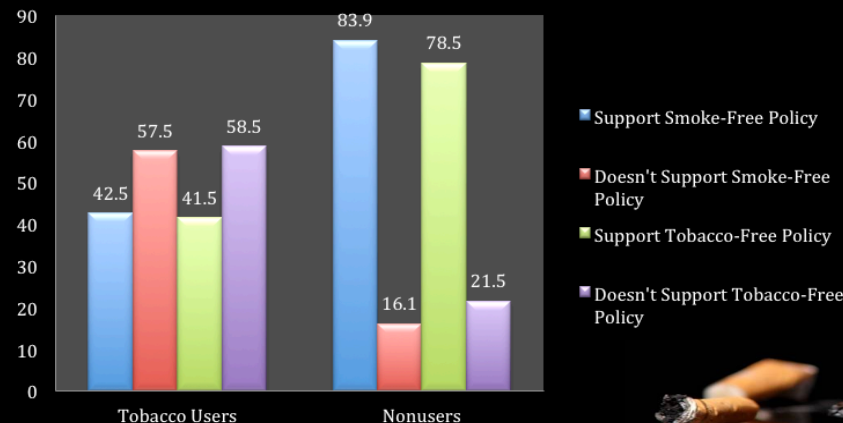


The **MAJORITY** of students support smoke & tobacco-free policy.

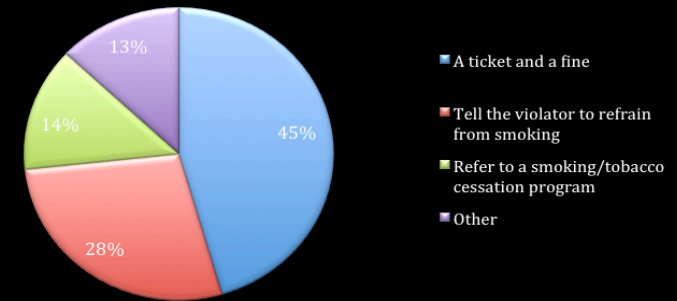
75% Support a comprehensive smoke-free campus policy

70% Support a comprehensive tobacco-free policy.

Percent of Tobacco Users and Nonusers Supporting Smoke or Tobacco-Free Policy



Suggestions for Enforcement



CONCLUSIONS

- **20%** of UAA students smoke cigarettes and other tobacco products; this is a **3% INCREASE** from the 2009 student health survey by the American College Health Association.
- **3 out of 4** UAA students support having a comprehensive smoke-free policy on campus.
- As expected, an overwhelming majority of those who do not use tobacco support having a smoke-free policy; but interestingly, more than **40%** of tobacco users support this.
- **45%** of students suggest giving a ticket and a fine as a form of enforcement for violating smoke-free policy

RECOMMENDATIONS

- UAA should consider adopting a comprehensive smoke-free policy due to the overwhelming support of students, even from a significant number of smokers.
- If UAA were to adopt a comprehensive smoke-free policy, at least a year should be spent on educating the UAA community about the policy and discussing the most appropriate and feasible enforcement.

