



## Multi-Unit Dwelling Fact Sheet

Smoking kills more people in this country than HIV/AIDS, motor vehicle collisions, murder, suicide and illicit drug use combined. <sup>2</sup>

More than 1,000 non-smokers will die this year in Canada due to second-hand smoke: 300 lung cancer deaths <sup>3</sup> and at least 700 deaths from coronary artery disease. <sup>4</sup>

In NS approximately 26 non-smokers die from diseases brought on by second-hand smoke. <sup>5</sup>

Exposure to second-hand smoke is the third leading cause of preventable death among Canadians after smoking and alcohol. <sup>6</sup>

The costs of treating tobacco related illness in NS is more than \$171.3 million a year. <sup>7</sup>

The US Environmental Protection Agency has classified second-hand smoke as a “Group A” human carcinogen. Second-hand smoke releases thousands of toxic chemicals into the air. More than 69 of these are known to cause cancer, including: **benzene, formaldehyde, cadmium and lead.**

Nearly three quarters (72%) of multi-unit dwellers in Nova Scotia live in an apartment within a multi-story apartment building. Those between the ages of 35 and 54 are more likely than other age groups to live in a duplex (10%), and those with a university degree are more likely than average to live in a condominium (12%).

According to a survey of Nova Scotians living in multi-unit dwellings conducted by Thinkwell Research for Smoke-Free Nova Scotia in 2008:

- 29% reported exposure to second-hand smoke, most often from open windows and doors and the hallway.
- Nearly 4 in 5 were bothered to some extent, 35% quite a bit and 10% so much they have considered moving.
- 96% of those people concerned were concerned because it was a health hazard, 29% said it infringed on their life and privacy.
- 62% support a smoking ban in the building and 35% prefer a ban that includes the building, balconies and patios.

- 73% were at least somewhat likely to choose a non-smoking building, including 37% of people who smoke.

Landlords can designate all or part of an apartment building or complex as smoke-free, including outdoor patios, balconies and the entire property by advising tenants of the change 4 months before their lease anniversary date.

Benefits of adopting a smoke-free policy include: healthier living space for residents, lower cleaning and maintenance costs for landlords and lower risk of fire.

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1. [http://www.gpiatlantic.org/pdg/health/tobacco/cost\\_of\\_tobacco-ns-2007.pdf](http://www.gpiatlantic.org/pdg/health/tobacco/cost_of_tobacco-ns-2007.pdf)
  2. *ibid.*
  3. Makomaski-Illing, E.M. and M.J. Kaiserman. Mortality Attributable to Tobacco Use in Canada and its Regions.
  4. [http://www.gpiatlantic.org/pdg/health/tobacco/cost\\_of\\_tobacco-ns-2007.pdf](http://www.gpiatlantic.org/pdg/health/tobacco/cost_of_tobacco-ns-2007.pdf)
  5. [www.bctobaccofacts.org](http://www.bctobaccofacts.org)
  6. [Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada](#). Tobacco and the Health of Canadians.
  7. [http://www.gpiatlantic.org/pdg/health/tobacco/cost\\_of\\_tobacco-ns-2007.pdf](http://www.gpiatlantic.org/pdg/health/tobacco/cost_of_tobacco-ns-2007.pdf)