



## SMOKING SURVEY SUMMARY

Updated May 2014

The Health and Safety Committee is charged with “developing a process to study issues related to Evergreen becoming a smoke-free campus.” As part of this process, we offered a simple online survey about tobacco smoking to the campus community in early June.

**Survey participants:** Nearly equal numbers of students and staff participated in the survey (237 and 226, respectively), with a smaller number of faculty (63). Staff participated at the highest rate (45%), with 26% of faculty and 6% of students responding.<sup>1</sup>

Most survey participants were about equally distributed in three age groups: under 25, between 30-49, and 50 or older. Most student participants were about equally distributed among all 4 years of undergraduates; and 75% of them live off campus.

Survey participants were about equally divided between smokers (including former smokers, 25%) and non-smokers (46% have never smoked). Cigarettes are the self-reported primary smoke of choice.

**Smoking cessation awareness:** About half of survey respondents are aware that the Health Center offers free smoking cessation assistance, and most (67%) know that this service is available through many insurance programs.

**Understanding of campus smoking policy:** Virtually everyone (96%) understands that smoking is allowed only in designated areas on campus, and only half of respondents report that this is current smoking practice on campus.

### **Experience and concerns regarding smoking on campus:**

Nearly 80% of survey respondents report encountering second-hand smoke on campus and 65% feel that a tobacco-free campus would reduce their exposure.

Over 60% of respondents are somewhat or very concerned about second-hand smoke and under 30% are not very concerned or not at all concerned.

About 56% of respondents feel that cigarette butt litter is a problem on campus, and over 67% feel that a smoke-free campus would reduce the problem. About 23% are not concerned about the problem.

37.3% of respondents would prefer a smoke free or tobacco free campus, 19.6% of the respondents would prefer more restrictions on smoking on campus, and 43% would prefer to keep the current designated smoking areas.

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<sup>1</sup> Evergreen has about 4000 students, 528 staff, and 240 faculty. <http://www.evergreen.edu/institutionalresearch>