



Smoke-Free Multi-Unit Housing and Minnesota’s Medical Cannabis Program

For more than 40 years, smoke-free policies have provided Minnesotans protection from exposure to secondhand smoke at home, work and in the community. In the late 1990s, ANSR and partners began advocating for greater protection from secondhand smoke exposure, especially for those who live in apartments and common interest communities, such as condos. This effort to increase protection from secondhand smoke exposure led to research, community education, and a growing commitment to healthy, smoke-free living options for all.

The availability of smoke-free buildings in Minnesota has grown dramatically since 2005, with more than 5,000 multi-

unit properties offering smoke-free air today.

Minnesota’s Medical Cannabis Program was expanded in 2021 to

allow enrolled patients to purchase the raw flower form of cannabis for consumption (i.e., legalizing smoking as a form of medical cannabis consumption by enrolled patients).

What does this mean for existing and new clean air policies, such as the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act and individual smoke-free housing policies? ANSR's Live Smoke Free program partnered with the Public Health Law Center to answer commonly asked questions by property management and residents of multi-unit housing regarding cannabis and smoke-free policies in Minnesota.

The FAQ is available here:

<https://www.publichealthlawcenter.org/sites/default/files/resources/smoke-free-housing-and-MN-medical-cannabis.pdf>



This FAQ is about what medical cannabis means for smoke-free housing was created by ANSR and Public Health Law Center.

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New Tobacco Ordinance Having Immediate Impact in Saint Paul

Saint Paul's new tobacco ordinance is delivering more impact than even advocates predicted. Last fall the Council approved an ordinance that set a cap on the number of tobacco licenses, increased penalties for violating the city's ordinances, set a minimum price on cigarettes and chewing tobacco at \$10 each and prohibited coupon redemption and in-store specials like two-for-one deals.

Advocates assumed that most of Saint Paul's tobacco vendors would comply with the ordinance and that they would no longer do price discounting. We were right. But this ordinance delivered an unanticipated bonus: reduced tobacco advertising.

Before the ordinance went into effect on December 11, 2021 ANSR staff and community partners visited most of the tobacco licensees to determine if they had price promotions, sold cigarettes and chew for less than \$10 or redeemed coupons. Larger stores generally redeemed coupons and had some price promotions while smaller stores generally did not. Nearly all stores sold some tobacco for less than \$10, some for under \$7 per pack/can.

Three months after the ordinance went into effect ANSR revisited those stores and found a much changed tobacco retail landscape. Of 137 stores visited only two sold tobacco for under \$10 and none had either price promotions nor did they redeem coupons. Congratulations to Saint Paul's vendors and the city's enforcement arm, Department of Licensing and Inspections.

“Saint Paul pioneered a new approach. No city in the country has as comprehensive an ordinance as this one. We now know it is effective and easy to enforce. We hope other cities will follow Saint Paul's lead.”

-ANSR President Jeanne Weigum

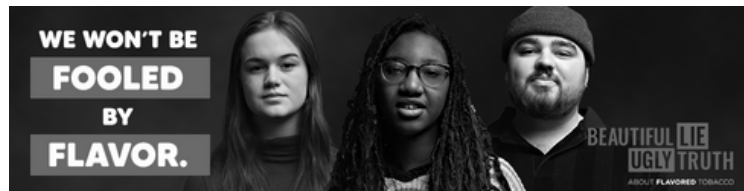
exterior sign promoting a price discount and, when we attempted to purchase the product at that price, we were told it was no longer available. Prior to the new ordinance some stores had a dozen or more price promotion ads inside the store. None were observed during the follow up assessment.

Health advocates have tried for years to limit tobacco advertising as it undermines people's resolve to quit smoking and makes smoking appear normal and desirable. First Amendment restrictions prevent most advertising restrictions. Since the Saint Paul ordinance is silent about advertising, there is no First Amendment issue, yet the amount of tobacco advertising people are exposed to is dramatically reduced.



Signs advertising discounts on tobacco have virtually disappeared in Saint Paul.

Compliance with the ordinance was expected. The surprising outcome was the dramatic reduction in the amount and type of tobacco advertising. Prior to the ordinance going into effect many stores had both exterior and interior ads promoting tobacco such as \$1.26 off or SPECIAL PRICE. On the follow up inspection only one store had an



Beautiful Lie, Ugly Truth has a new look!
The refreshed campaign incorporates all flavored tobacco, including menthol cigarettes, sweet flavored cigars and chew, and the wide array of flavored vaping products. See more at www.beautifulieuglytruth.org

Brooklyn Park Renters Support Citywide Smoke-Free Housing

Brooklyn Park, Hennepin County, and ANSR staff began reaching out to select multi-unit properties in 2019 (both smoke-free and smoking-allowed) in Brooklyn Park asking to survey residents on the topic of smoke-free housing. The goal was to learn about smoking habits in apartments, resident experience of secondhand smoke, and opinions about smoke-free building policies where they live and for multi-unit housing properties citywide.

The survey found that more than half of residents (59% in smoke-free buildings and 49% in smoking-permitted buildings) are exposed to secondhand smoke every day, multiple times per week, multiple times per month, or multiple times per year.

Residents showed strong support for smoke-free policies and ordinances. 74% of residents either strongly supported or somewhat supported a citywide smoke-free housing ordinance. 61% of residents either strongly supported or somewhat supported a citywide smoke-free housing ordinance. As a result of the survey, ANSR staff are currently collaborating with the City of Brooklyn Park to increase smoke-free housing opportunities in the community. You can read the full report here: mnsmokefreehousing.org.

Planning for 2022 Minnesota Prevention Program Sharing Conference Underway



Growing Hope: The Power of Primary Prevention
2022 Minnesota Prevention Program Sharing Conference

ANSR's hosted Minnesota Prevention Resource Center (MPRC) is now accepting abstracts for presentations at the 2022 Minnesota Prevention Program Sharing Conference in Duluth Minnesota (<https://mnprc.org/mn-prevention-program-sharing-conference/>) this

October 20 and 21. This year's conference theme is Growing Hope: The Power of Primary Prevention. Why hope? Countless communities, agencies, and individuals come together to do this challenging work year after year despite numerous challenges and obstacles. When stakeholders work together, hope, and success, can grow. Join MPRC in Duluth to share, learn, and GROW a healthy future for all Minnesotans. You do not have to be an expert researcher or writer to present at the conference, we encourage anybody who has new and exciting ideas to apply. You can find resources for writing abstracts, learning objectives, and professional bios on the MPRC website, as well as personalized mentorship and assistance opportunities. To submit an abstract, go to the MPRC conference page. Abstracts are accepted until June 2nd, 2022.

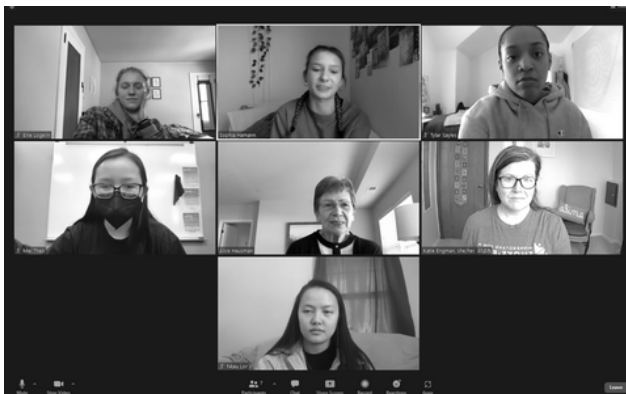
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

A bill to reduce barriers to tobacco treatment is progressing in the Minnesota legislature, but final passage is not assured.

HF3153 increases the number of professions that can bill insurance for tobacco treatment, eliminates co-pays and allows patients to have unlimited nicotine replacement prescriptions. Since some people attempting to quit smoking need to use nicotine replacement for quite some time, this last provision is particularly important.

The bill is included in a bigger House health and human services bill and is likely to pass. Unfortunately, the companion bill was not heard in the Senate. Advocates are working to find a way to get it to the Governor's desk for signature. If signed into law, it will help many Minnesotans access cessation without barriers.

Raising Our Voices for Statewide Change with Minnesotans for a Smoke-Free Generation



ANSR staff and advocates meet with Rep. Alice Hausman (66A) during week of action.

ANSR staff and partners participated in the Minnesotans for a Smoke Free Generation (MSFG) Week of Action from February 8 - March 4, 2022. MSFG is a statewide coalition that supports policies that reduce youth smoking and will help end the death and disease associated with commercial tobacco use. Throughout the week, advocates from across the state urged lawmakers to remove barriers to tobacco treatment and end the sale of flavored tobacco products.

ANSR is an active and engaged member of MSFG and throughout Week of Action, ANSR staff and partners made a strong showing. We participated in more than 22

meetings with lawmakers and asked for their support for MSFG's two 2022 policy priorities: removing barriers to tobacco treatments (HF 3153) and ending the sale of flavored tobacco products (HF 904).

ANSR places youth voices front and center when advocating for tobacco prevention. During Week of Action, ANSR staff engaged students from Hamline University's Health, Justice, and Advocacy class. Students connected with their representatives via social media, email, and virtual meetings. They even created their own TikTok videos to raise awareness about the harms of tobacco.

Thanks to support from Blue Cross and Blue Shield Center for Prevention, ANSR is hosting three interns to support MSFG and statewide efforts. These three tobacco prevention champs worked behind the scenes to help make the Week of Action successful by informing key planning decisions, creating and updating advocacy materials, and creating training videos for the event. By engaging young people through the entire process, including planning, we ensure our messaging and actions remain focused on some of those most impacted by tobacco marketing.

ANSR Membership Form

Already a member? Not your renewal date? Pass this form along to someone you think might be interested. Share your newsletter. Also, please send in your email address to help us update our records.



I want to help ANSR's ongoing work:

___ Guarantor ___\$100 ___ \$200 ___ Other

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___ Contributing member ___\$30 ___ \$40

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___ Associate member ___\$15 ___ \$10

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Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota
2395 University Ave. W., Suite 310
St. Paul, MN 55114-1512

Including Hookah in Flavored Tobacco Restrictions

As tobacco control advocates across the country have pushed to end the sale of flavored tobacco at the local and state level, a concerning trend has emerged: exempting flavored hookah tobacco, or shisha, from these regulations. Exempting this highly addictive and deadly product creates a loophole that is easily exploited by the tobacco industry.

Hookah is a waterpipe that is used to smoke tobacco. A special type of tobacco, called shisha, is indirectly heated using coals or wood embers. Shisha is available in many flavorings such as: bubble gum, peanut butter, mango, grape, and mint. While many perceive hookah as safer than cigarettes, this is not accurate. Hookah smoking carries the same risks as smoking other combustible tobacco, including lung and heart disease and various cancers.

Outside of Minnesota, hookah retailers have been successful in convincing decision makers that hookah does not appeal to youth and that it carries important cultural significance, especially to the East African and



How hookah works: Specially made tobacco (shisha) is placed on the head of the hookah under a sheet of tinfoil. Charcoal or wood embers are then placed on top of the tinfoil. The shisha burns releasing smoke, which is cooled by the water in the bowl and then inhaled through the hose/mouthpiece.

Middle Eastern communities. In fact, hookah use is not unique to any community or culture and its use is becoming increasingly common among young people from many different backgrounds.

ANSR is working with the East African community in partnership with community organizer, Said Ahmed. Our approach is to be sensitive to individuals who use hookah because they feel it is a part of their culture while also acknowledging the fact that hookah has tremendous negative health implications. Exempting hookah from flavored tobacco regulations perpetuates health disparities by allowing the tobacco industry a clear path to market and sell a deadly product.



The tobacco used in a hookah, called shisha, is available in candy and fruit flavors.



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ANSR's Annual Plant & Garage Sale in May, June

After several years of drenching rains raining on our plant and garage sale, we got the message. The end of May is a great time for a plant sale and a particularly bad time for a garage sale. This year we are splitting the two events with the plant sale held the traditional weekend, May 20-21 and the garage sale a month later, June 17-18.

Expect the same wonderful selections of veggies and perennials for sun and shade--come rain or shine--at 1647 Laurel Ave., Saint Paul 55104. The honor system help-yourself plant sale will begin May 16 with expert assistance for shoppers May 20-21. Please continue to support ANSR by coming to the plant sale yourself, promoting it on your own social media, and bringing your friends and neighbors. It's a lot more fun than Menards!



The June garage sale still needs your goodies. Best sellers are collectibles, jewelry, décor, housewares, sporting goods, tools, bikes, and children's toys. We love books, tapes, and CDs. Please, no electronics with screens, furniture, or clothing. Seasonal out-of-season is pretty darn tough to sell (example: Halloween décor or downhill skis). Please call Jeanne at 651-646-3005 about when you might drop off your treasures. Last year between the plant and garage sale ANSR brought in \$7,921. We hope to do at least as well with our new 'anti-rain-out' model. We look forward to seeing you there!