

Kentucky Workplace Tobacco Policy Study 2008

Summary of State Highlights

Purpose

To assess the number and type of tobacco policies and tobacco prevention education and cessation programs in manufacturing facilities with 50 or more employees in Kentucky.

Descriptive Characteristics

- Sample size = 655 manufacturing facilities (69.6% participation rate) from 51 health department service areas, representing 97 counties.
- Mean number of employees = 241
- 83.9% Caucasian, 70.3% male
- 61.7% manufactured products with flammable materials
- 19.2% had unions
- 49.3% had community outreach or funding programs for community projects
- 56.9% had employee wellness or health promotion programs
- 0.9% sold cigarettes on company property

Smoking Policy

- Nearly three-fourths (70.0%) prohibited smoking inside the company, an increase from 62.0% in 2006.
- Of those that allowed indoor smoking, 39.3% reported that all indoor smoking areas were separately enclosed and ventilated, down from 43.7% in 2006.
- Of those that allowed indoor smoking, a little over half (51.8%) permitted smoking in break rooms, similar to 2006.
- Nearly all (85.8%) reported posting *No Smoking* signs at their company, similar to 2006.
- One-fourth (25.5%) reported that their employees smoke in company vehicles, a decrease from 30.2% in 2006.
- Nearly all (96%) allowed smoking outside the company, similar to 2006.
- Nearly one-fourth (23.8%) were somewhat or very interested in assistance to change their smoking policies.
- The percentage of manufacturing workers covered by indoor smoking policy in 2008 was 73.2%.¹

Spit Tobacco Policy

- Although 76.9% had an official spit tobacco policy, only 55.5% prohibited spit tobacco in work areas, similar to 2006.

Cessation Resources

- Two-thirds (66%) provided resources to employees who want to quit using tobacco, an increase from 57.4% in 2006.
- Of those that provided cessation resources, fewer manufacturers (38.2%) provided cessation through their employee assistance program than in 2006 (49.5%). In 2008, 104 companies (24.4%) provided the Cooper-Clayton Method to Stop Smoking group program, similar to 2006.
- Nearly half (48.9%) provided health insurance coverage for all or part of the cost of medications for smoking cessation, up from 43.5% in 2006. Nearly one-third (32.4%) covered all or part of the cost of behavioral counseling or classes for cessation, an increase from 27.8% in 2006.
- Over half (52.6%) were somewhat or very interested in assistance on effective smoking cessation programs.

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Note. Workplace Policy study includes only manufacturers with 50 or more employees.

¹ <http://www.mc.uky.edu/tobaccopolicy/KCSP/UseAndPolicyFactSheets2009.HTM>, Tobacco Use and Policy Fact Sheets by County, UK Tobacco Policy Research Program.