



Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke Declines in Minneapolis

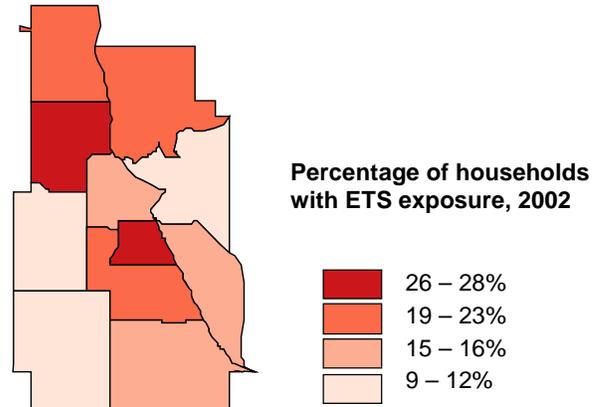
Exposure to tobacco smoke in the home has decreased substantially in the past few years in Minneapolis. Environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) that is inhaled by nonsmokers causes significant health risks, including lung cancer and heart disease.

In Minneapolis, the percentage of homes where occupants were exposed to tobacco smoke dropped from 22.6 percent to 16.9 percent between 1998 and 2002, the years the Survey of the Health of Adults, the Population, and the Environment (SHAPE) were administered. The SHAPE data were gathered in extensive interviews of 6,638 Minneapolis residents.

The decline represents a decrease of 25 percent in terms of the number of households where tobacco smoke poses a health hazard. Reductions in household tobacco smoke exposure were seen in all 11 Minneapolis communities, and were largest in Calhoun Isles, Camden, Central, Longfellow and Phillips. Importantly, homes with children under the age of six showed a 51 percent decline in household tobacco smoke. This is significant because ETS has been shown to increase the risk for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, as well as lower respiratory tract infections, chronic respiratory symptoms, ear infections, and asthma in children.

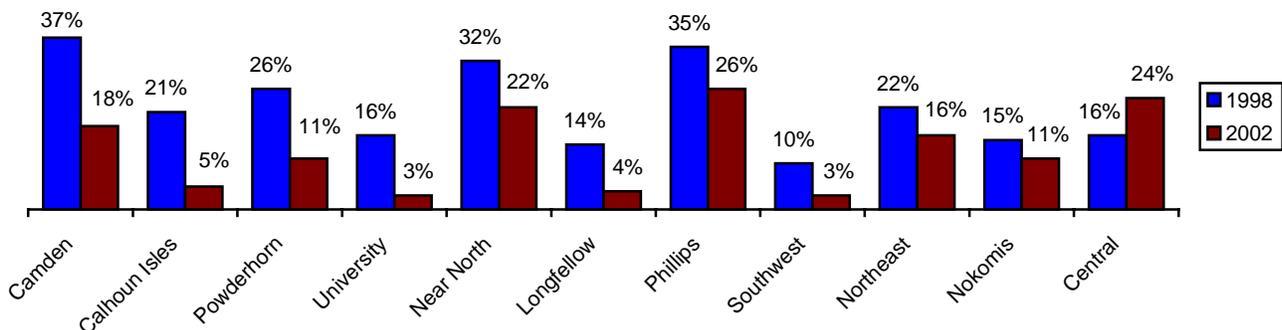
Over the past three years, MDHFS has focused extensively on reducing exposure to secondhand smoke

after research showed especially high rates in Near North and Camden.



The department formed community partnerships with Asian Media Task Force, CLUES, African American Family Services, the Minneapolis Urban League, Minneapolis American Indian Center, Way to Grow, Minneapolis Public Schools and several other organizations to raise awareness of the negative impacts of secondhand smoke, especially on children. A public awareness campaign encouraged parents and childcare providers to avoid smoking inside. These efforts were funded by the tobacco endowment, which was eliminated in June 2003.

Percentage of Households with Children Under 6 with ETS by Community, 1998 and 2002



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Data for this brief were based on the Survey of the Health of Adults, the Population and the Environment (SHAPE), a collaborative effort of the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support, the City of Bloomington Division of Public Health, and the Hennepin County Community Health Department.