



Student Health Services Smoking Environmental Scan Assessment Report

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Choose One: Needs Assessment

Date of Assessment Implementation: September 2012

Date of Report: January 2013

Purpose of Assessment

To determine whether or not the university was in compliance with the campus' smoking policy that forbids smoking within 25 feet of all entrances and attached structures to buildings, and that mandates a posted sign by each public entrance to buildings stating such policy.

Division Learning Outcome Social & Civic Engagement

Targeted Learning Outcome

None, this was a needs assessment.

Assessment Methodology

Seventy-two public buildings were identified on campus as ones that would have a fairly high usage rate by the campus community. A survey was developed by Student Health Services that assessed whether or not each main building entrance had a visibly posted "No Smoking within 25 Feet of Building" sign, had ashtrays placed beyond the 25 feet, and whether or not people were observed smoking within the 25 foot radius. The survey questions were uploaded to iPods utilizing the Campus Labs partnership with Student Affairs. During Summer and Fall 2012, two volunteers were sent to each building to record the answers to the survey questions. The results are summarized below.

Results

A total of 224 entrances were examined with 55 of the 72 buildings having from 2-10 entrances. Of those buildings with only one entrance (n=17), only 7 (41%) had a posted sign. 29 (40%) of the buildings had a sign posted at all identified entrances. 167 of the 224 entrances (75%) had posted signs near the door. 61 of the 224 entrances had an ashtray located near the door. Of these, 22 (36%) were placed closer than 25 feet to the entrance. 20 individuals were seen smoking within a 25 foot distance from entrances.

Conclusion

Although the campus is following a policy that requires each main entrance to have a sign posted by it stating "no smoking within 25 feet of the building", including patios and steps, our scan did not indicate this to be uniform procedure throughout campus. Many of the buildings (59%) with only one main entrance did not have a posted sign. With many of the buildings having an ashtray positioned within the 25 foot distance, smokers are more likely to smoke too close to the buildings. Every effort should be made to move the ashtrays further from the entrances to discourage smoking near the buildings.

Implications for Practice

The results of this study will be shared with Environmental Health and Safety so that more effort can be made to post visible signs at each entrance to buildings, and to move any existing ashtrays to beyond 25 feet of an entrance. However, if the campus is going smoke-free in the foreseeable future, these changes would not be necessary.