

**Opinions on Smoking Issues in the
Counties of Albany, Rensselaer,
And Schenectady Counties**

A Survey Conducted June 25 – July 1, 2005

Report of July 30, 2005

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Current Use of Tobacco Products

Compared to the survey results from April, 2004, there appears to be a slight decline in tobacco usage in all three counties. A smaller percentage reports using any tobacco products and the percentage smoking cigarettes is also down. Almost all of those who use tobacco products do so in the form of cigarettes. Only a few smoke cigars or pipes or chew tobacco. 50 % report they have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime, but many of these do not smoke currently, resulting in between 29 and 35 % who are past smokers.

Prevalence of Tobacco Use

Q 25. Do you currently use tobacco products in any form (Cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing)?

(The numbers below are the percentages using any tobacco product, then those who report smoking cigarettes. Then the average number of cigarettes smoked per day for those who report that use of tobacco, is reported. The percentage indicating every day, some days, or not at all, and use of other forms of tobacco are on pages 17 and 18 of this report).

	County					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
Any form now	17.3	14.0	20.9	17.0	20.3	17.0
Cigarettes						
Smoke now	16.0	13.6	20.0	17.0	18.5	17.0
Did before	36.3	29.0	35.1	37.0	27.9	34.9
Never smoked	45.1	56.8	41.3	46.0	50.9	48.2
Average # now	15.4	17.6	16.1	15.8	14.4	14.8

Younger people are less likely to have smoked 100 cigarettes in their lifetime, but they are still more likely to be current smokers. 40 % of those under 30 have tried cigarettes. The percentage having tried cigarettes rises with age, reaching 58 % of those 60 and over. While fewer young people have tried smoking, current smoking remains higher among those younger. Among those under 30, 24 % currently use tobacco products. This rate then declines with age. Among those 30-44, 15 % now use tobacco products, and 16 % of those 45-59 do so. It then declines to 9 % among those 60 and over. While education may be convincing more younger people not to try cigarettes, those who have tried are currently continuing to smoke at a relatively high rate.

There is a great deal of work to do to convince smokers of the danger they may be creating for children. Of those who smoke, 22 % report that there is at least one child below 17 in the household. Those with a child present are just as likely to smoke as those without a child present. Put another way, in cases where a child is present, 11 % have a smoker present.

Smoking declines as income increases. Those with household incomes under \$50,000 are more likely to smoke (24 %), while those making more than \$75,000 are less likely to smoke (9 %). Men are more likely to smoke than women. 19 % of men report they currently use tobacco products, while only 13 % of

women report that they do. The 6 % who lack some insurance coverage are much more likely to smoke (39 %) than those who have insurance (15 %). It might also be the case that those who smoke are less likely to be able to obtain insurance. 86 % of tobacco users have insurance, while 96 % of non-smokers have insurance.

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke

Compared to last year's survey, there is now somewhat less exposure to smoking in homes and cars. Across the three counties, between 12 and 24 % say they spent some time in a car where someone was smoking, and between 22 and 27 % spent time in a home where someone is smoking.

Q 4. During the past week, approximately how many total hours did you spend in a home where someone has been smoking?

	County					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
Zero hours	73.6	78.0	66.3	72.8	71.0	73.6
1-5 hours	8.5	10.3	16.3	11.9	14.7	11.8
6-10 hours	1.2	1.1	5.1	1.2	2.6	2.2
11-21	3.1	4.2	3.8	2.0	3.0	2.7
More than 21	13.2	5.3	7.7	11.9	8.0	9.7
Not sure	.5	1.1	.8	0.4	.8	0

Q 5. During the past week, approximately how many total hours did you spend in a vehicle where someone has been smoking?

	County					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
Zero hours	86.0	87.8	71.5	75.9	79.2	80.4
1-5 hours	6.2	9.2	21.7	15.4	15.2	12.7
6-10 hours	4.4	0.8	2.5	4.0	3.8	2.4
11-21	1.3	0.8	2.5	2.0	1.5	2.5
More than 21	2.1	1.2	1.2	2.4	.3	2.0
Not sure	0	0.4	.6	0.4	0	0

Those who smoke are much more likely to be in situations where they are exposed to smoking. Of those currently using tobacco products, 75 % spent some time in a house where smoking occurs, and 83 % have spent some time in a car where smoking occurs. Of those who do not currently use tobacco, only 18 % have spent some time in a house where smoking occurs, and only 14 % have spent some time in a car where smoking occurs.

Worries about Health Effects

48 – 54 % say that exposure to secondhand smoke bothers them a great deal, which represents an increase from a year ago. Another 25 - 28 % say it bothers them somewhat. Overall, then, almost 80 % say that exposure bothers them. 19-20 % say that exposure does not bother them “much at all.”

Men are also less likely to worry about exposure. 41 % of men worry a great deal about exposure, while 60 % of women worry a great deal about exposure.

The major source of variation in worries about exposure is the smoking history of an individual. Among those who now smoke, 8 % worry a great deal and 66 % don't worry much at all. Among those who did smoke, but do not now, 49 % worry a great deal, and 21 % don't worry much at all. Of those who have never smoked, 65 % worry a great deal, and 6 % don't worry much at all.

Concerns about Smoking

Q 1. Does exposure to secondhand smoke bother you a great deal, somewhat, or not much at all?

	County					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
Great deal	45.2	53.2	36.1	54.0	43.7	47.9
Somewhat	25.8	25.9	33.6	25.4	24.6	27.8
Not much	27.2	19.4	29.1	20.6	30.3	21.8
Not sure	1.8	1.5	1.3	0	1.5	2.6

Personal Policies about Smoking

Over 70 % of respondents report that they prohibit smoking in their home or their car. Another 10 % allow smoking in some places at home or sometimes in their car. Between 12 -20 % allow smoking anywhere or have no rules about smoking. Age and sex have little association with whether smoking is allowed at home or in a car. Those with a child present are more likely to prohibit smoking (82 %) at home and in a car. Smoking is more likely to be prohibited as income increases. 64 % of those with household incomes under \$50,000 prohibit smoking at home, while 82 % of those making more than \$75,000 do so.

The presence of smoking restrictions varies with whether the person was or is a smoker. Smokers are much less inclined to have rules about smoking at home or in cars, but even they operate with some prohibitions. 90 % of those who have never smoked do not allow smoking at home, and 87 % report it is never allowed in a car. In contrast, only 28 % of current smokers and 74 % of past smokers prohibit smoking at home. Only 16 % of current smokers prohibit smoking in a car and 80 % of past smokers do so.

Q 2. Which statement best describes the rules about smoking in your home? (options read: “Not allowed anywhere inside the home, smoking is allowed in some places or at some times, smoking is allowed anywhere inside the home, there are no rules about smoking inside the home, Don’t know/Not sure”)

Rules	County					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
Not allowed	69.5	71.9	65.5	70.0	68.0	76.1
Some places	12.5	11.4	19.0	9.1	13.6	10.2
Anywhere	6.4	3.0	3.7	8.3	6.0	3.5
No rules	11.3	12.9	10.8	12.3	11.8	10.1
Not sure	.3	.8	1.0	.4	.7	0

Q 3. Which statement best describes the rules about smoking in your family vehicle or vehicles?

Rules	County					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
Not allowed	74.3	74.1	63.5	72.3	66.4	79.5
In some cars	11.9	11.4	21.7	11.1	16.8	8.3
All cars	10.3	8.4	11.2	12.7	13.2	10.4
No family car	2.6	3.8	1.8	3.6	3.1	1.8
Not sure	.9	2.3	1.8	.4	.5	0

Support for the New Law

The new law has now been in effect for two years. When asked about favoring or opposing the new law, a strong majority in each county favors the law. The support is now about 10 percentage points higher than a year ago.

A year ago women were more supportive of the law than men, and women are still more supportive of the law (77 % favor - 14 % oppose) than men are (65 % favor - 24 % oppose). Those with higher incomes are more supportive of the law. 65 % of those with household incomes under \$50,000 support the law, while 81 % of those making more than \$75,000 support the law (9 %).

The primary opposition comes from tobacco users. Among those currently smoking, 32 % favor the law and 75% oppose it. A year ago it was 18 % support – 72 % oppose. Among those who once smoked but no longer do, 68 % favor the law and 20 % oppose it. Among those who have never smoked, 86 % support it and 6 % oppose it. The opposition to this law will continue to come primarily from smokers, but their opposition appears to be declining.

As found a year ago, respondents have consistent views about smoking. Those who support the new law are more likely to worry a great deal about the dangers of smoking. They are more likely to limit smoking in their home and car and to limit their exposure to smoking. Those who oppose the law are far less worried about the dangers of smoking. They are less likely to limit smoking at home or in their car and are more likely to be in situations where smoking occurs. For example, among the 71 % that support the law, 63 % worry a great deal about the dangers of smoking, 85 % prohibit smoking in their house, and 86 % prohibit it in their car. In contrast, among the 18 % who oppose the new law, only 16 % worry a great deal about the dangers of smoking, only 36 % prohibit smoking at home, and 33 % prohibit smoking in their car.

New Law Support

Q 6. Do you personally favor or oppose or have no opinion about the New York State law, which does not allow smoking in all public places and places of work, including bars and restaurants?

	County					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
Favor	62.4	72.2	61.0	70.8	60.9	71.8
Oppose	30.5	16.4	28.1	19.8	29.4	20.8
No opinion	4.9	8.0	7.7	8.3	6.3	6.7
Not sure	2.2	3.4	3.2	1.2	3.4	.7

Compliance with the Law

Respondents were asked if they have seen anyone smoking in a restaurant or bar. About 7 % report seeing smoking in a restaurant and 11 % report seeing smoking in a bar. There is little variation by age, sex, support for the law, or concern about exposure to smoking. Surprisingly, those who smoked in the past or currently smoke are more likely to report having seen smoking in both situations.

Q 10. During the last time you went to a restaurant in New York State in the past 30 days, did you see someone smoking indoors at the restaurant?

	County		
	Albany	Rensselaer	Schenectady
Yes	6.5	9.5	4.5
No	91.3	88.8	92.1
Didn't go last 30 days	1.9	1.7	2.9
Don't know	.4	0	.4
Refused	0	0	0

Q 11. During the last time you went to a bar in New York State in the past 30 days, did you see someone smoking indoors at the bar?

	County		
	Albany	Rensselaer	Schenectady
Yes	5.7	17.2	9.8
No	54.8	57.1	58.8
Didn't go last 30 days	36.9	23.2	30.4
Don't know	2.3	2.5	.7
Refused	.4	0	.3

Expanding Coverage of the Legislation

When asked about limiting smoking in other situations – parks, beaches, and around the entryways to buildings – support is not high, but it is greater than last year. Much as support for the law is increasing, it appears that support for extending the law is increasing. A majority now endorses expanding coverage of the law to include entryways. For expansion involving parks and beaches a majority still opposes this expansion.

Q 7. Do you favor or oppose an expansion of the current clean indoor air law to include any of the following environments?

Public parks and outdoor recreation areas?

	County					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
Favor	29.8	39.1	29.2	39.9	31.6	34.3
Oppose	63.9	51.3	63.4	51.8	60.3	53.2
No Opinion	6.3	9.5	7.4	8.3	8.1	12.5

Public beaches?

	County					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
Favor	30.8	41.8	33.6	43.1	34.7	37.2
Oppose	63.5	49.1	60.7	49.4	60.8	52.2
No Opinion	5.7	9.1	5.7	7.5	4.6	10.7

Areas around building entry ways?

	County					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
Favor	49.9	58.9	45.6	59.3	49.8	53.9
Oppose	44.5	31.2	48.7	34.8	43.9	40.8
No Opinion	5.9	9.9	5.8	5.9	6.3	5.3

The primary source of variation in opinions about these issues is again whether someone worries about the dangers of exposure to smoking and smoking history. Among the 47 % who worry a great deal about the dangers of exposure, 56 % support expansion to parks, 59 % support including beaches, and 76 % support including entryways. Among those who are only somewhat worried, 25 % support expansion to parks, 30 % to beaches, and 50 % to entryways. Among those who have never smoked, 53 % support expansion to parks, 57 % to beaches, 69 % to entryways. Among current smokers, 12 % support expansion to parks, 11 % to beaches, and 21 % to entryways.

Awareness of Tobacco Advertising

Respondents have a much greater recall of tobacco advertising around shops than at sporting or cultural events. Very few recall seeing tobacco advertising at the latter two types of events.

Among those under 30, 42 % recall seeing ads in shop windows 2-3 times a day or every day. 35 percent of women report seeing ads that frequently in shop windows, while only 26 % of men report that frequency. 60 % of smokers recall seeing ads in shop windows everyday or more, while only 24 % of non-smokers recall seeing ads that frequently.

Now I'd like to ask you about tobacco advertising. In the past 30 days, how often have you noticed cigarettes or tobacco products being advertised or promoted in any of the following ways:

Q 12. ...in shop windows or inside shops where tobacco is sold?

	County		
	Albany	Rensselaer	Schenectady
2-3 times per day	3.4	8.3	7.1
Everyday	15.6	19.4	24.9
Once per week	17.5	16.6	17.8
Less than once per week	9.9	9.5	8.7
Never	29.7	22.9	23.7
Not sure/Not applicable	24.0	23.3	17.8

Q 13. ...at sports events?

	County		
	Albany	Rensselaer	Schenectady
2-3 times per day	.4	0	.8
Everyday	1.9	1.2	2.8
Once per week	3.0	5.6	3.2
Less than once per week	6.1	6.4	7.5
Never	38.4	34.9	40.9
Not sure/Not applicable	50.2	52.0	44.8

Q 14. ...at cultural events?

	County		
	Albany	Rensselaer	Schenectady
2-3 times per day	.8	0	.4
Everyday	0	0	1.2
Once per week	2.3	.4	3.2
Less than once per week	2.7	4.0	7.1
Never	51.7	50.0	50.2
Not sure/Not applicable	42.6	45.6	37.9

Smoking in Movies

There is considerable agreement that actors smoking in movies encourages teens to smoke and that movies should not show actors smoking. Agreement about not showing smoking in movies rises with age. Among those under 30, 55 % agree (agree or agree strongly), while 74 % of those 60 and over agree. 55 % of men agree while 72 % of women agree. 69 % of those without a child present agree (strongly agree or agree) while 62 % of those with a child present agree or strongly agree. 68 % of non-smokers agree (strongly agree or agree) and even 45 % of smokers strongly agree or agree.

Q 15. Could you please tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements?

Movies rated G, PG, and PG-13 should not show actors smoking.

	County		
	Albany	Rensselaer	Schenectady
Strongly agree	31.9	28.4	22.2
Agree	37.6	36.8	41.4
Disagree	17.9	17.6	18.2
Strongly disagree	4.2	4.0	5.8
Don't know/Not sure	8.4	13.2	12.5

Seeing actors smoking in the movies encourages smoking among teens.

	County		
	Albany	Rensselaer	Schenectady
Strongly agree	18.3	25.2	16.1
Agree	52.5	40.0	48.0
Disagree	16.7	26.8	24.0
Strongly disagree	6.8	3.6	6.1
Don't know/Not sure	5.7	4.4	5.9

Tobacco Sponsorship of Events

A plurality of respondents think that tobacco sponsorship has a negative impact in the community. Somewhat more than a third thinks sponsorship has no impact. Smokers are less worried about such sponsorship. 44 % of non-smokers see a negative impact, while 26 % of smokers see a negative impact. Of those who worry a great deal about exposure to smoke, 51 % see a negative impact, while 25 % of those who don't worry much at all see a negative impact.

Q 17. In general, do you believe that tobacco industry sponsorship of activities or events has a positive or negative impact in the community, or do you believe it has no impact at all?

	County		
	Albany	Rensselaer	Schenectady
Positive impact	11.4	13.2	12.2
Negative impact	41.1	34.0	41.5
No impact	38.0	40.4	36.7
Don't know	9.5	12.4	9.7
Refused	0	0	0

You may or may not know that the tobacco industry provides sponsorship for many different local events and organizations. I'd like to read you the names of some events or organizations and ask if you think they should or should not accept tobacco sponsorship for their events and activities. See page 25 for a discussion of problems with questions 18-22 for Albany County.

Q 18. Sporting events?

	County		
	Albany	Rensselaer	Schenectady
Definitely should	13.0	6.4	8.7
Should	29.1	30.9	23.4
Should not	32.6	49.8	42.6
Definitely should not	13.8	9.2	15.3
No opinion	11.5	3.6	10.0

Q 19. Community festivals?

	County		
	Albany	Rensselaer	Schenectady
Definitely should	9.2	6.0	5.2
Should	31.4	20.5	17.2
Should not	34.5	59.0	53.5
Definitely should not	13.0	10.0	13.7
No opinion	11.9	4.4	10.4

While smokers and non-smokers generally divide on issues, when it comes to accepting sponsorship money a majority of smokers and non-smokers agree that these various events should not (should not

or definitely should not) accept tobacco sponsorship. The differences between smokers and non-smokers are slight.

Q 20. Parades?

	County		
	Albany	Rensselaer	Schenectady
Definitely should	10.0	5.2	5.2
Should	31.4	23.3	18.5
Should not	31.8	55.4	49.6
Definitely should not	13.4	9.2	16.1
No opinion	13.4	6.8	10.0

Q 21. Arts and cultural events?

	County		
	Albany	Rensselaer	Schenectady
Definitely should	11.1	5.2	5.2
Should	32.1	26.1	21.3
Should not	33.3	55.4	48.9
Definitely should not	11.5	8.8	14.3
No opinion	11.9	4.4	10.3

Q 22. Charities/Non-profit organizations?

	County		
	Albany	Rensselaer	Schenectady
Definitely should	13.0	9.6	4.6
Should	30.7	30.1	18.8
Should not	31.8	48.2	47.9
Definitely should not	14.2	8.4	17.8
No opinion	10.3	3.6	11.0

The Consequences of Policies: Visiting Restaurants and Bars

The percentage of respondents who say that, following the passage of the law, they are more likely to go to a restaurant has increased in all three counties. A majority of respondents still indicate that the new law has had no effect on their tendency to go to a restaurant or to a bar. 30 - 38 % of respondents say they are now more likely to go to restaurants, while 6 – 10 % are less likely to visit restaurants. The percentage more likely to visit a bar is still higher than the percentage less likely. Smokers and non-smokers differ. Among current smokers, only 6 % are more likely to visit a restaurant, while 32 % are less likely. Among non-smokers, 39 % are more likely to visit a restaurant and 2 % are less likely. The same variation occurs for bars.

Visiting restaurants and bars

Q 8. Since smoking was prohibited in restaurants in New York State in July 2003, are you more likely to visit them, less likely to visit them, or the smoking ban hasn't affected how often you go to restaurants?

	Counties					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
More	28.4	37.6	34.0	38.3	26.6	30.3
Less	6.0	5.7	8.4	4.7	8.1	9.8
No change	63.7	54.8	56.9	56.5	63.7	59.8
Not sure	2.0	1.9	.8	0.4	1.6	0

Q 9. Since smoking was prohibited in bars in New York State in July 2003, are you more likely to visit them, less likely to visit them, or the smoking ban hasn't affected how often you go to bars?

	Counties					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
More	22.6	21.7	25.4	23.7	23.1	24.0
Less	10.6	6.5	13.3	5.9	12.5	13.4
No change	64.1	62.4	60.1	62.1	62.5	60.2
Not sure	2.8	9.5	1.2	8.3	1.9	2.4

Considering Quitting and Awareness of Quitline

A majority of respondents have heard of Quitline, and awareness is now higher than a year ago. Younger people (who smoke more) and smokers are much more likely to have heard of it. 63 % of non-smokers have heard of it, while 90 % of smokers have heard of it. Awareness is high among those under 30 (81 %) and declines with age. 49 % of those 60 and over are aware of Quitline. 78 % of those who oppose the law are aware of it. Television remains the dominant source of awareness about Quitline.

Q 31. Have you considered quitting smoking or tried to in the past?

	Counties					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
Considered	11.1	17.3	37.3	24.3	15.6	28.9
Tried	73.2	68.9	48.7	52.8	74.5	51.8
Neither	15.7	13.9	14.0	22.9	9.9	19.3

Q 32. Have you ever heard of the New York State Smokers' Quitline? (options: Yes, No, Don't Know/Not sure)

	Counties					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
Yes	59.2	70.7	64.4	77.0	52.2	60.5
No	39.1	27.4	33.6	23.0	44.6	38.4
Not sure	1.8	2.0	1.9	0	3.2	1.1

Q 33. (If yes) Where did you hear about the New York State Smokers' Quitline? (Options read: Television, Radio, Newspapers/magazines, Internet)

	Counties					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
Television	59.8	70.7	57.9	75.5	58.2	68.7
Radio	12.9	27.4	17.0	9.0	21.9	18.4
Newspapers	8.3	2.0	5.5	12.2	2.3	11.6
Internet	2.0	0	.5	3.3	.9	1.4

Employment and Income

Q 36. What is your current employment status? (options read: Employed for wages, Self-employed, Out of work for more than 1 year, Out of work for less than 1 year, A homemaker, A student, Retired, Unable to work, Don't know/Not sure).

	Counties					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
Employed	55.7	64.7	65.7	64.1	63.5	60.6
Self-employed	7.3	1.9	5.9	6.1	2.4	4.1
Unemployed 1 yr +	.5	.9	0	2.9	1.2	.3
Unemployed < 1 yr	1.5	.2	1.3	1.1	1.3	2.1
Homemaker	3.0	1.6	3.6	3.2	5.3	3.8
Student	3.0	4.9	2.7	1.2	4.2	2.0
Retired	27.2	23.2	18.8	21.0	20.2	23.8
Unable	1.5	2.5	1.9	0	1.3	1.9
Not sure	.3	0	0	.4	.6	1.3

Q 41. Bearing in mind that this is completely confidential, please tell me which category best describes your yearly household income. Is it... (read categories)

	County		
	Albany	Rensselaer	Schenectady
Under \$25,000	15.7	11.7	14.4
\$25,000 to \$49,000	20.5	27.9	23.2
\$50,000 to \$74,000	23.8	26.4	23.5
\$75,000 to \$99,000	13.3	9.5	12.4
\$100,000 to \$149,000	9.7	9.5	10.5
over \$150,000	2.6	2.6	2.1
Don't know	.6	2.1	1.0
Refused	13.9	10.3	13.0

Insurance

94 % of all respondents report that they have some form of health insurance. Those under 30 are somewhat less likely to have insurance (88 %). 14 % of smokers have no insurance, compared to 4 % of non-smokers. Over 70 % of respondents have private health insurance. The next largest source is Medicare, while a substantial proportion have more than one form of insurance. Insurance coverage is very different for those with lower incomes from those with higher incomes. 56 % of those making less than \$50,000 have private insurance, while 97 % of those making more than \$75,000 have private insurance. Among those making less than \$50,000, 18 % rely on Medicaid and 8 % rely on Medicare. Among those making less than \$25,000, 28 % have private, 26 % Medicaid and 18 % Medicare.

Q 39. Are you currently covered by any kind of health insurance, that is, any policy or program that provides or pays for medical care?

	Counties					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
Yes	97.5	94.9	93.4	93.2	92.7	94.7
No	1.8	5.1	6.1	6.9	6.4	5.3
Not sure	.7	0	.5	0	.9	0

Q 40. What type of health care coverage do you use to pay for most of your medical care? (Options read: Private insurance coverage, Medicare, Medicaid or Medical Assistance, Military / CHAMPUS / TriCare / VA, Indian Health Service, None, Other, Don't know/Not sure)

	Counties					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
Private	78.1	72.5	77.2	73.6	71.5	77.7
Medicare	11.2	14.1	4.2	6.6	14.1	9.2
Medicaid	1.1	2.0	2.1	4.4	1.5	3.6
Military, etc.	1.3	.8	.9	2.0	1.4	0
Indian Service	0	0	0	0	0	0
None	1.6	4.9	5.5	5.9	6.1	5.4
Other - multiple	2.9	5.0	8.3	6.4	3.7	2.6
Not sure	1.7	.7	1.8	.6	1.6	1.2

Children and Race

Between 34 – 38 % of respondents report that at least one child under 17 is in their home. For all respondents, there is an average of less than one child per household. The population in these counties is overwhelmingly white.

Q 37. How many children live in your household who are younger than 5 years old? How many 5 through 11 years old? How many 12 through 17 years old? The results here are first reported in terms of whether there is one or more child in each category. Then the table presents the percentage of households with at least one child present.

	County					
	% with 1 or more children within each age category					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
Younger than 5	14.3	12.0	17.0	15.0	12.4	15.0
5 through 11	18.0	12.0	20.9	15.0	92.2	18.0
12 through 17	14.9	16.0	19.5	16.0	20.1	18.0
% with a child	33.7	33.1	36.6	38.2	38.1	34.1

Q 38. Which one of the following best describes your race? (Options read: White, Black or African American, Hispanic, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, American Indian, Alaska Native, Other, No additional choices, Don't know/Not sure)

	County					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
White	89.0	86.3	92.7	96.9	88.8	85.8
Black	2.0	7.0	5.9	.4	1.8	4.6
Hispanic	2.1	3.2	.6	1.9	1.0	2.6
Asian	1.8	0	0	0	.9	.8
Native Hawaiian	0	0	0	0	.5	0
Indian	0	0	0	.8	.9	.7
Other – mixed	1.3	1.9	0	0	3.8	5.0
Don't know		1.7		0		.6

Smokers' Profile: Frequency of Smoking

The tables on this page and the next provide a profile of smokers only, or those who report they indicate they have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and now use tobacco products.

Q 26. Do you now smoke cigarettes everyday, some days, or not at all? Results for 2005 are not comparable to 2004 (which are not reported here) because questions about having ever smoked and current usage were asked in a different sequence in the two years. In 2004 respondents were asked if they currently use tobacco products, then whether they have smoked 100 cigarettes in their lifetime, and then how much they currently smoke. They were screened twice. In 2005 they were asked if they have ever smoked, then, for those having smoked, if they now use tobacco products, and then, if yes, how much they smoke now. In each county, a few respondents said that they currently use tobacco products, but also indicated they now smoke cigarettes "not at all." These are respondents who report that they chew tobacco, or smoke cigars or a pipe.

	Albany	Rensselaer	Schenectady
Everyday	79.5	76.5	79.9
Some days	11.7	4.6	14.0
Not at all	8.8	19.0	6.1

Q 24. How old were you when you first started smoking cigarettes regularly?

	Counties					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
0-16	60.0	52.7	58.8	66.1	74.5	64.4
17 plus	40.0	47.3	47.2	33.9	25.5	35.6

Q 27. On average, about how many cigarettes a day do you now smoke?

	Counties					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
	15.4	17.6	16.1	15.8	14.4	14.8

Use of Other Tobacco Products

The percentages reported below are only for those who report that they currently use tobacco products. The numbers within each county using these products are very small, so the percentages can vary considerably from county to county.

Q 28. Do you now use chewing tobacco, snuff or dip every day, some days, or not at all?

	Counties					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
Everyday	0	0	0	1.0	0	0
Some days	0	3.1	0	5.5	7.9	2.3
Not at all	100	95.4	100	93.7	86.3	97.7
Don't know	0	1.5	0	0	5.8	0

Q 29. Do you now smoke cigars, cigarillos or little cigars every day, some days, or not at all?

	Counties					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
Everyday	0	1.3	0	3.0	2.0	1.0
Some days	24.4	15.2	6.8	9.7	19.6	6.8
Not at all	75.6	82.1	93.2	87.3	72.6	92.3
Don't know	0	1.5	0	0	5.9	0

Q 30. Do you now smoke pipe tobacco every day, some days, or not at all?

	Counties					
	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	04	05	04	05	04	05
Everyday	0	0	0	.7	0	1.0
Some days	0	.4	4.6	98.6	3.9	3.3
Not at all	100	97.3	95.5	.7	90.2	95.8
Don't know	0	2.4	0	0	6.8	0

Survey Procedures and Samples Derived

The calling was conducted June 25 – July 1, 2005. Calls were made during the hours of 5:30 – 9:00 on weeknights, and from 12 – 8 on Saturday and Sunday. A random sample of telephone numbers was obtained from Survey Sampling Inc. A separate random sample was selected by SSI from each county. That is, the initial sample of telephone numbers is a random sample within each county, and not a random sample of all counties considered as a whole.

The goal was to sample individuals and not households. If the calling process were to ask and accept the first person answering the telephone, the sample would over-represent women, since they are more likely to answer the telephone. To randomize the selection process within households, the last birthday method was used. Birthdays are randomly distributed among households, so the callers would ask to speak with the “adult [over 18] in the household now with the last [most recent] birthday.” If that person was not there at the time of the call, the name was recorded and called the next night and the night after that until three tries were completed. The same three time callback procedure was used for those numbers where no one answered, the line was busy, or an answering machine was present. Calling continued until a sample of at least 250 completed surveys was achieved for each county. In some counties, this required four callbacks.

Despite using this method, it was still relatively difficult to obtain a completed sample that exactly reflected the population within each county. It was possible to obtain the 2000 census age and sex distribution for each county from the U.S. Census web, American Factfinder. Comparing the obtained samples with the population distributions, men and younger respondents were under-represented. This is a problem if men and women differ in their views or if younger people differ. Women tend to be more worried about the dangers of smoking and they are somewhat more supportive of restricting smoking. Given these differences between men and women, the sample was weighted to reduce women as a percentage of the sample and increase men as a percentage of the sample. Practically, this means multiplying male cases by a number greater than one to increase their presence, while multiplying women cases by a number less than 1 to reduce their presence. Younger people are more likely to smoke, so the sample was also weighted by age. Weighting is a common approach when it is difficult to reach certain groups in the population. The county population distribution and the sample distributions, after weighting, are below.

Comparison of Sample with Population

Sex	Albany		Rensselaer		Schenectady	
	pop	sample	pop	Sample	pop	Sample
Female	53.3	53.3	51.6	51.9	53.1	53.4
Male	46.7	46.7	48.4	48.1	46.9	46.6
<i>Age</i>						
18 – 29	23.0	22.7	22.0	21.0	18.0	17.8
30 – 44	29.0	26.7	30.0	30.2	30.0	29.5
45 – 59	25.0	26.5	25.0	26.8	25.0	26.4
60 plus	23.0	24.2	23.0	22.1	27.0	26.4

The reporting of results is done in two very different ways in this report. When county results are reported, the results are the weighted results within each county. That is, only the completed sample within each county is used. When relationships among opinions are discussed, the entire completed sample of 782 respondents is treated as one sample. The relationships of interest were examined within each county to determine if the relationships differ across counties. For example, smokers are less likely to support the new state law limiting smoking. The percentage of smokers supporting or opposing this law was examined in each county to assess whether the percentages differ across counties. There was only minimal variation in this relationship across counties. Reporting the separate relationships for each county would be very cumbersome, and the samples would also be much smaller, creating less confidence in the relationships reported for each county. With a sample of 782 there is less possibility of random variation playing a role, so there can be more confidence in the results. So, when relationships are discussed in the report, they are based on 782 respondents within three counties.

Survey Script

Hello, my name is ___ and I'm calling from Cotter Opinion Research. We aren't selling anything, but we are doing a survey about the issue of smoking. To randomly select a person, could I speak with the adult at home now who most recently had a birthday? (*If that person is not there, ask for only his / her first name and record on call sheet for a callback. Then say "Thanks, I will try that person later" and end the interview*)

(If that person is on the line): Would you be willing to participate in a survey about exposure to tobacco smoke and tobacco-related issues? Participation is, of course, voluntary. You can choose to not answer some questions and you can quit whenever you wish. All information is confidential. It will take 6-7 minutes.

(When that person is on the line): Hello, my name is _____ and I'm calling from Cotter Opinion Research. We're not selling anything. Would you be willing to participate in a survey about exposure to tobacco smoke and tobacco-related issues? Participation is, of course, voluntary. You can choose to not answer some questions and you can quit whenever you wish. All information is confidential. It will take 6-7 minutes. (If people ask who is conducting the survey, indicate it is for the Capital District Tobacco-Free Coalition).

I would like to ask you some questions about the smoking policy at your home, your work and in your vehicles.

1. Does exposure to secondhand smoke bother you a great deal, somewhat, or not much at all?

- 1_____ Great deal
- 2_____ Somewhat
- 3_____ Not much at all
- 4_____ No response/ Not sure

2. Which statement best describes the rules about smoking in your home? (**read alternatives**)

- 1_____ Smoking is not allowed anywhere inside the home
- 2_____ Smoking is allowed in some places or at some times
- 3_____ Smoking is allowed anywhere inside the home
- 4_____ There are no rules about smoking inside the home
- 5_____ Don't know/Not sure

3. Which statement best describes the rules about smoking in your family vehicle or vehicles? (**read alternatives**)

- 1_____ Smoking is never allowed in any vehicle
- 2_____ Smoking is allowed some times or in some vehicles
- 3_____ Smoking is allowed in all vehicles
- 4_____ Do not have a family vehicle
- 5_____ Don't know/Not sure

4. During the past week, approximately how many total hours did you spend in a home where someone has been smoking?

- 1 _____ Zero hours
- 2 _____ 1-5 hours
- 3 _____ 6-10 hours (Example: 1 hour each day for a full week)
- 4 _____ 11-21 (Example: 3 hours a day for a full week)
- 5 _____ More than 21 hours a week
- 6 _____ Don't know/Not sure

5. During the past week, approximately how many total hours did you spend in a vehicle where someone has been smoking?

- 1 _____ Zero hours
- 2 _____ 1-5 hours
- 3 _____ 6-10 hours (Example: 1 hour each day for a full week)
- 4 _____ 11-21 (Example: 3 hours a day for a full week)
- 5 _____ More than 21 hours a week
- 6 _____ Don't know/Not sure

6. Do you personally favor or oppose or have no opinion about the New York State law, which does not allow smoking in all public places and places of work, including bars and restaurants?

- 1 _____ Favor
- 2 _____ Oppose
- 3 _____ No opinion
- 4 _____ Don't know/Not sure

7. Do you favor or oppose an expansion of the current clean indoor air law to include any of the following environments?

- a. Public parks and outdoor recreation areas 1 ___ favor 2 ___ oppose 3 ___ Don't know/ not sure
- b. Public beaches? 1 ___ favor 2 ___ oppose 3 ___ Don't know/ not sure
- c. Areas around building entry ways 1 ___ favor 2 ___ oppose 3 ___ Don't know/ not sure

Now I have some questions about your own preferences when eating out in a restaurant or patronizing a bar or tavern.

8. Since smoking was prohibited in restaurants in New York State in July 2003, are you more likely to visit them, less likely to visit them, or the smoking ban hasn't affected how often you go to restaurants?

- 1 _____ More
- 2 _____ Less
- 3 _____ No change
- 4 _____ Don't know/Not sure

9. Since smoking was prohibited in bars in New York State in July 2003, are you more likely to visit them, less likely to visit them, or the smoking ban hasn't affected how often you go to bars?

- 1 More
- 2 Less
- 3 No change
- 4 Don't know/Not sure

10. During the last time you went to a restaurant in New York State in the past 30 days, did you see someone smoking indoors at the restaurant?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Didn't go to a restaurant in past 30 days **(DO NOT READ)**
- 4 Don't know **(DO NOT READ)**
- 5 Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

11. During the last time you went to a bar in New York State in the past 30 days, did you see someone smoking indoors at the bar?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Didn't go to a bar in past 30 days **(DO NOT READ)**
- 4 Don't know **(DO NOT READ)**
- 5 Refused **(DO NOT READ)**

Now I'd like to ask you about tobacco advertising. In the past 30 days, how often have you noticed cigarettes or tobacco products being advertised or promoted in any of the following ways:

12. ... in shop windows or inside shops where tobacco is sold?

- 1 2-3 times per day
- 2 Every day
- 3 Once per week
- 4 Less than once per week
- 5 Never
- 6 Don't know/Not sure/Not applicable

13. ...at sports events?

- 1 _____ 2-3 times per day
- 2 _____ Every day
- 3 _____ Once per week
- 4 _____ Less than once per week
- 5 _____ Never
- 6 _____ Don't know/Not sure/Not applicable

14. ...at cultural events?

- 1 _____ 2-3 times per day
- 2 _____ Every day
- 3 _____ Once per week
- 4 _____ Less than once per week
- 5 _____ Never
- 6 _____ Don't know/Not sure/Not applicable

Could you please tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements.

15. Movies rated G, PG, and PG-13 should not show actors smoking.

- 1 _____ Strongly agree
- 2 _____ Agree
- 3 _____ Disagree
- 4 _____ Strongly disagree
- 5 _____ Don't know/Not sure

16. Seeing actors smoking in the movies encourages smoking among teens.

- 1 _____ Strongly agree
- 2 _____ Agree
- 3 _____ Disagree
- 4 _____ Strongly disagree
- 5 _____ Don't know/Not sure

17. In general, do you believe that tobacco industry sponsorship of activities or events has a positive or negative impact in the community, or do you believe it has no impact at all?

- 1 _____ Positive impact
- 2 _____ Negative impact
- 3 _____ No impact
- 4 _____ Don't know (DO NOT READ)
- 5 _____ Refused (DO NOT READ)

This question was changed after finishing calls to Albany County. The original language, shown below, was very confusing to callers and respondents. Respondents were confused by the phrase “should not voluntarily refuse to accept” so the question was changed for Rensselaer and Schenectady counties to the more straightforward “should or should not accept sponsorship,” which respondents found easy to get and respond to. Given the confusion that occurred with the original language, the responses for these questions for Albany County should be viewed with some skepticism.

(original) You may or may not know that the tobacco industry provides sponsorship for many different local events and organizations. I’d like to read you the names of some events or organizations and ask if you think they should or should not voluntarily refuse to accept tobacco sponsorship for their events and activities.

(changed) You may or may not know that the tobacco industry provides sponsorship for many different local events and organizations. I’d like to read you the names of some events or organizations and ask if you think they should or should not accept tobacco sponsorship for their events and activities.

18. Sporting events? **(If answer should / should not: “would that be definitely should / should not, or just should / should not?”)**

1___ def should 2___ should 3___ should not 4___ def should not 5___ no opinion

19. Community festivals? **(If answer should / should not: “would that be definitely should / should not, or just should / should not?”)**

1___ def should 2___ should 3___ should not 4___ def should not 5___ no opinion

20. Parades? **(If answer should / should not: “would that be definitely should / should not, or just should / should not?”)**

1___ def should 2___ should 3___ should not 4___ def should not 5___ no opinion

21. Arts and cultural events **(If answer should / should not: “would that be definitely should / should not, or just should / should not?”)**

1___ def should 2___ should 3___ should not 4___ def should not 5___ no opinion

22. Charities/Non-profit organizations **(If answer should / should not: “would that be definitely should / should not, or just should / should not?”)**

1___ def should 2___ should 3___ should not 4___ def should not 5___ no opinion

Now we have just a few questions about tobacco use.

23. Have you smoked at least 100 cigarettes in your entire life?

- 1 _____ Yes
- 2 _____ No **SKIP TO # 28**
- 3 _____ Don't know/Not sure

24. How old were you when you first started smoking cigarettes regularly? _____ years old

25. Do you currently use tobacco products in any form - cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing?

- 1 _____ yes
- 2 _____ no **SKIP TO # 32**

26. Do you now smoke cigarettes everyday, some days, or not at all?

- 1 _____ Everyday
- 2 _____ Some days
- 3 _____ Not at all

27. On average, about how many cigarettes a day do you now smoke?

_____ number of cigarettes (1 pack = 20 cigarettes)

28. Do you now use chewing tobacco, snuff or dip every day, some days, or not at all?

- 1 _____ Every day
- 2 _____ Some days
- 3 _____ Not at all
- 4 _____ Don't know/Not sure

29. Do you now smoke cigars, cigarillos or little cigars every day, some days, or not at all?

- 1 _____ Every day
- 2 _____ Some days
- 3 _____ Not at all
- 4 _____ Don't know/Not sure

30. Do you now smoke pipe tobacco every day, some days, or not at all?

- 1____ Every day
- 2____ Some days
- 3____ Not at all
- 4____ Don't know/Not sure

(If yes to any smoking questions)

31. Have you considered quitting smoking or tried to in the past?

- 1___ considered
- 2___ tried
- 3___ neither

32. Have you ever heard of the New York State Smokers' Quitline?

- 1_____ Yes
- 2_____ No
- 3_____ Don't know/Not sure

33. *(If yes)* Where did you hear about the New York State Smokers' Quitline?

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1_____ Television | 5_____ Newspapers/magazines |
| 2_____ Radio | 6_____ Internet |

We are almost finished! Your information will remain anonymous but we need some general information.

34. What is your age? _____

35. Record sex: 1_____ Male 2_____ Female

36. What is your current employment status?

- 1_____ Employed for wages
- 2_____ Self-employed
- 3_____ Out of work for more than 1 year
- 4_____ Out of work for less than 1 year
- 5_____ A homemaker
- 6_____ A student
- 7_____ Retired
- 8_____ Unable to work
- 9_____ Don't know/Not sure

37. How many children live in your household who are younger than 5 years old? How many 5 through 11 years old? How many 12 through 17 years old? (Record number for each).

