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**SURVEY SHOWS STRONG SUPPORT FOR SMOKE-FREE OUTDOOR AREAS**

**TROY, N.Y., October 5, 2007** – An overwhelming majority of adults in Albany, Rensselaer and Schenectady favor smoke-free playgrounds and pools according to an annual survey commissioned by the Capital District Tobacco-Free Coalition. Eighty percent of residents in the Tri-County area are in support of smoke-free playgrounds and 77% are in favor of smoke-free pools. From 2005 to 2007 there was a 25% increase in the percentage of respondents in favor of making building entryways smoke-free, increasing from 57% to 71%.

“These results show a clear trend that people’s attitudes are changing. Four years ago, the focus was on the dangers of secondhand smoke in bars, restaurants and places of business. Now the community is realizing that those dangers don’t stop when you move outside.” said Judy Rightmyer, Program Director for the Capital District Tobacco-Free Coalition.

The survey was conducted by Dr. Jeff Stonecash at Syracuse University in July. A total of 1050 phone surveys were completed from residents in Albany, Rensselaer and Schenectady Counties. The survey focused on tobacco use, attitudes about expanding the Clean Indoor Air Act to outdoor venues and opinions on tobacco industry advertising, promotion and sponsorship. Similar surveys have been conducted annually beginning in 2004.

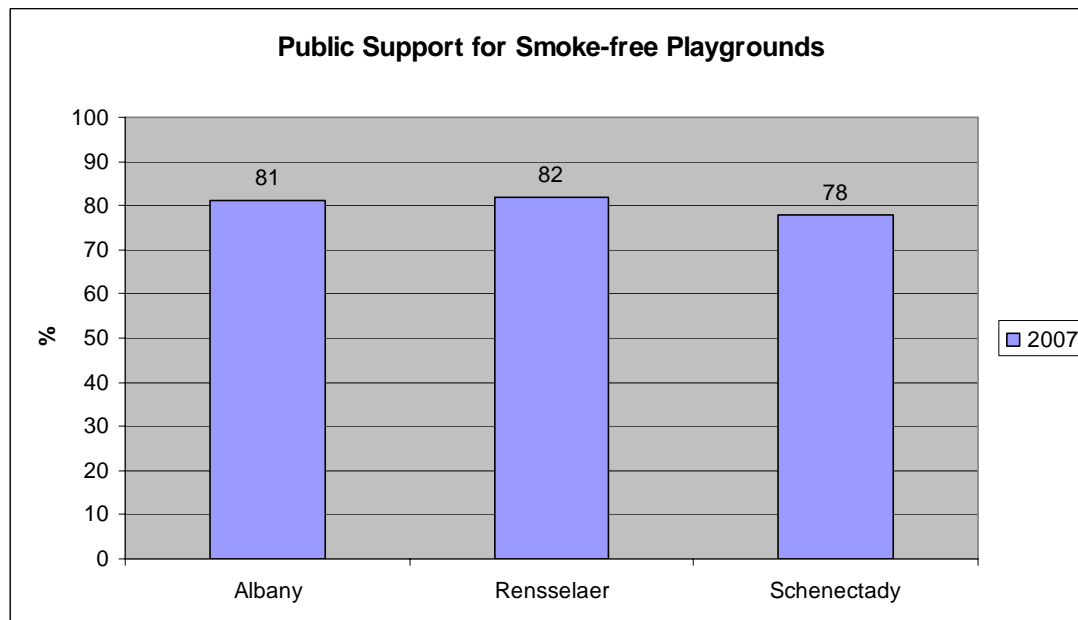
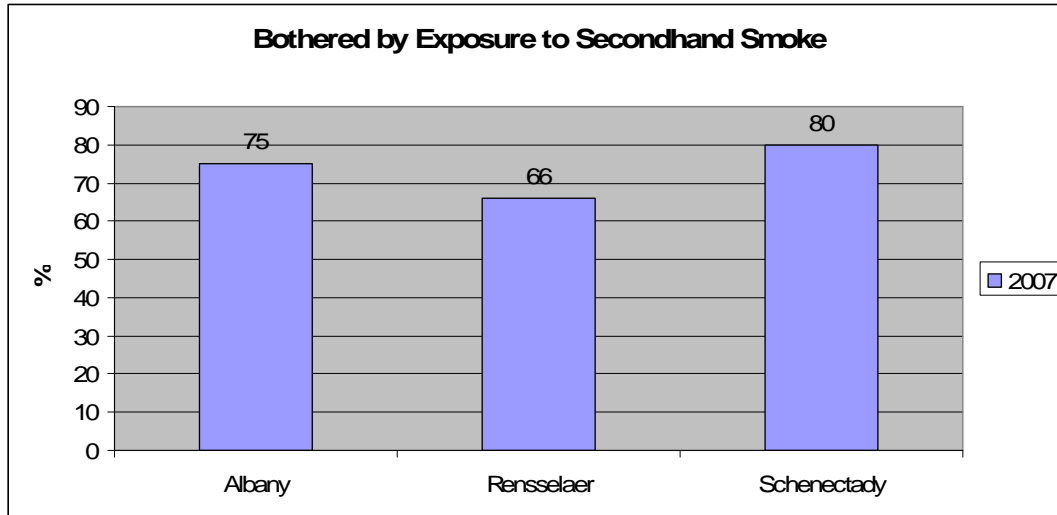
“Support for smoke-free parks, beyond the boundaries of playground and pool areas increased 33% since 2005 as well. This reflects increasing support for parks to be healthier places for adults as well as children.” said Theresa Zubretsky, Project Coordinator for the Coalition.

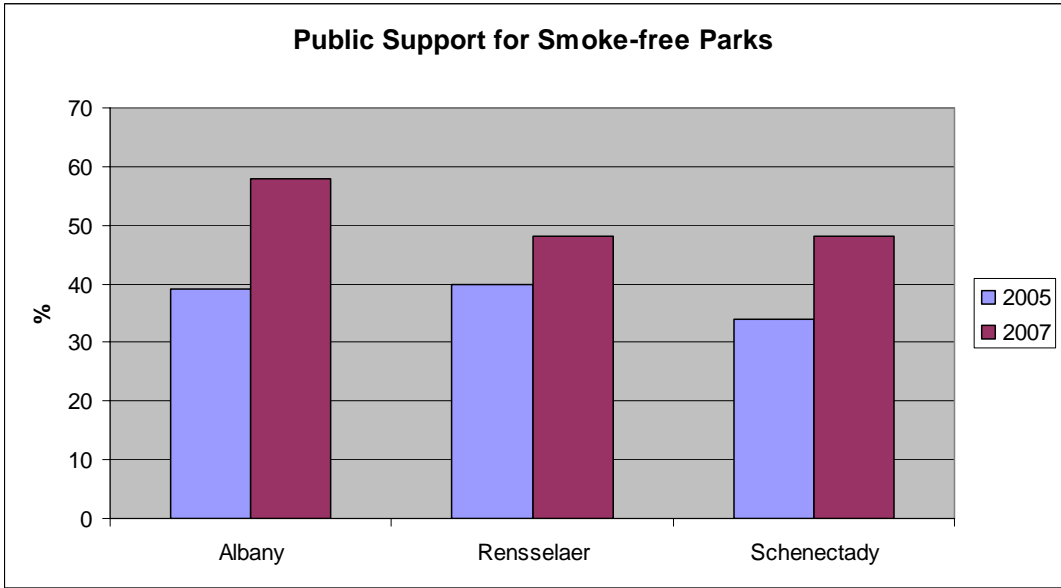
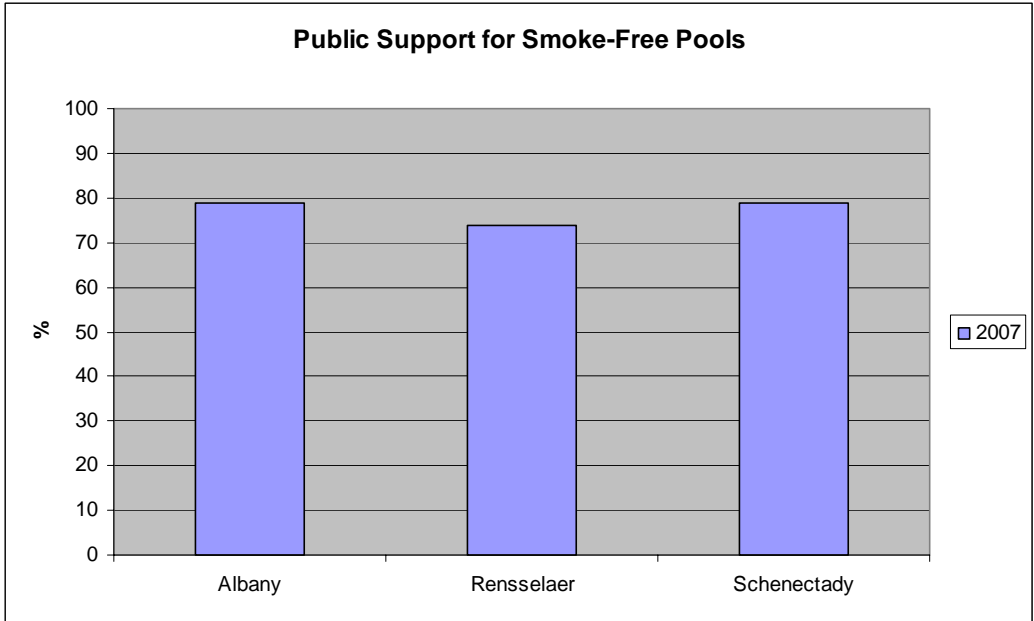
The survey also revealed that 74% of residents in the Capital Region are bothered by exposure to secondhand smoke. “I think that our community is really beginning to understand the dangers of secondhand smoke and that they are listening to what the Surgeon General said over a year ago, that there is no safe exposure to secondhand smoke,” said Judy Rightmyer.

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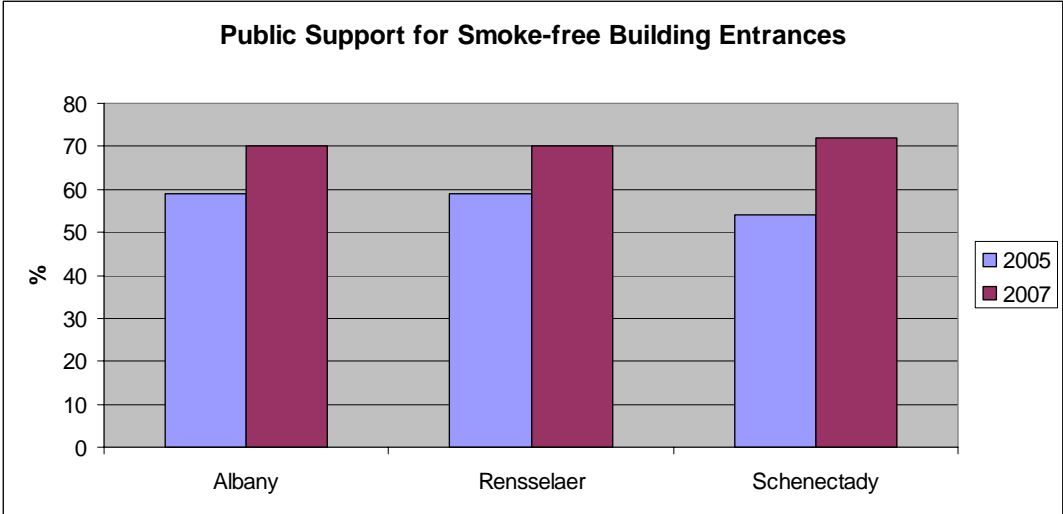
The 2007 survey also shows that the adult prevalence of tobacco use averages 17% in the three counties surveyed. Albany County shows the lowest tobacco use rate (13.1%) and Rensselaer County has the highest rate (22.3%), while Schenectady County has remained unchanged from last year at 16%.

The Capital District Tobacco-Free Coalition is one of 30 community partnerships funded by the New York State Department of Health Tobacco Control Program. For more information about the Coalition visit [www.smokefreecapital.org](http://www.smokefreecapital.org).





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