

Purpose

Pendleton County Champions is engaged in smoke-free workplace policy work as part of funding received from Interact for Health. The purpose of the Breathe Easy Business Survey is to examine indoor tobacco use and support for policy change in local businesses in Pendleton County. The survey is used to determine attitudes towards indoor tobacco use regulation.

Methodology

The survey was designed to assess indoor tobacco and vaping use at all businesses located in Pendleton County, as well as support for a countywide ordinance related to smoke-free workplaces. Using information from local sources, 113 businesses located in Pendleton County were identified. One hundred percent (100%) of these businesses were contacted. A total of 91(n) participated. The businesses were broken down into four categories: Bars (n=2), Restaurants (n=14), Residential (n=4), and Other Commercial Businesses i.e., gas stations, hardware stores etc., (n=71). A three-question survey was conducted over a period of two weeks; phone calls and emails, if applicable, were made to each listed business. If a business was not able to be reached, a follow up call was conducted later that week. The phone calls and emails consisted of three close-ended questions, as well as an opportunity to provide additional comments. The first question asked whether or not the participant thinks that Pendleton County should adopt a law making all workplaces a smoke-free environment. The two other questions asked whether or not that individual business allows anyone to smoke or vape indoors.

Potential Limitations and Barriers

Some barriers included businesses not wanting to participate in the survey, phone numbers being disconnected, and some businesses no longer operating. A potential barrier is that some businesses do not want to share if tobacco use is allowed indoors in fear that there will be negative repercussions. Other limitations include not all businesses being included in the final list provided to the researchers.

Results

Most businesses did not allow anyone to use tobacco or electronic cigarettes in their businesses; however, some businesses did not think that there needs to be regulation on indoor tobacco use. Sixty-three percent (63%) of individuals who responded stated that they think there should be regulation regarding indoor tobacco use. Eleven percent (11%) of businesses stated that they allow tobacco as well as electronic cigarette use indoors. A couple respondents noted it would be easier if there was a county-wide policy.



Conclusion

While there are some variations among the business types, based on the survey it can be concluded that most businesses in Pendleton County do not permit tobacco use indoors and a majority do support a countywide smoke-free workplace policy. Overall, most participants did think that regulation of indoor tobacco use would be beneficial.