

1-21-2015

University of Vermont Community Tobacco Use and Attitudes Survey

Hillary Anderson

Kyle Concannon

Catherine LaPenta

Robin Leopold

Christina Litsakos

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.uvm.edu/comphp_gallery

 Part of the [Community Health and Preventive Medicine Commons](#), and the [Health Services Research Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Anderson, Hillary; Concannon, Kyle; LaPenta, Catherine; Leopold, Robin; Litsakos, Christina; Muller, Imelda; Traina, Asaad; Delaney, Tom; Wilcke, Burton; and Carney, Jan K., "University of Vermont Community Tobacco Use and Attitudes Survey" (2015). *Public Health Projects, 2008-present*. 217.
https://scholarworks.uvm.edu/comphp_gallery/217

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Public Health Projects, University of Vermont College of Medicine at ScholarWorks @ UVM. It has been accepted for inclusion in Public Health Projects, 2008-present by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks @ UVM. For more information, please contact donna.omalley@uvm.edu.

Authors

Hillary Anderson, Kyle Concannon, Catherine LaPenta, Robin Leopold, Christina Litsakos, Imelda Muller, Asaad Traina, Tom Delaney, Burton Wilcke, and Jan K. Carney

Introduction

Smoking remains an important public health issue in U.S. Colleges. 17.3% of U.S. smokers are 18-24 years old. 28% of U.S. college students began smoking at age 19 or older. Currently 1,104 U.S. Colleges have adopted Tobacco-Free policies.

Methods

- A web-based survey was administered to 18,408 UVM students, faculty, and staff, using validated questions about tobacco use
- Data were analyzed across three variables: Current Smokers, Former Smokers, and Never Smokers
- An 18-point Attitude Score was derived from 6 questions to quantify attitudes towards a Tobacco-Free Campus
- A score of 0 indicates most supportive of a tobacco free campus, 18 indicates most opposed

Survey Demographics

- 3,177 surveys were returned from undergraduates (1603), graduate students (377), staff (805), and faculty (369)
- The overall response rate was 17.3%. Characteristics of participants are shown in **Table 1**
- Smoking status was divided into three categories: 12.5% of respondents were Current Smokers, 13.8% were Former Smokers, and 74.7% were Never Smokers. See **Figure 1**

Table 1: Demographics of Survey Participants

| Participant Affiliation with UVM | N (%) |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Undergraduate Students | 1603 (50.5) |
| 2014 | 32 (2.0) |
| 2015 | 311 (19.4) |
| 2016 | 374 (23.3) |
| 2017 | 416 (26.0) |
| 2018 | 443 (27.6) |
| 2019+ | 27 (1.7) |
| Graduate students | 377 (11.9) |
| Faculty | 369 (11.6) |
| Staff | 805 (25.3) |

Results

Figure 1: Smoking Status

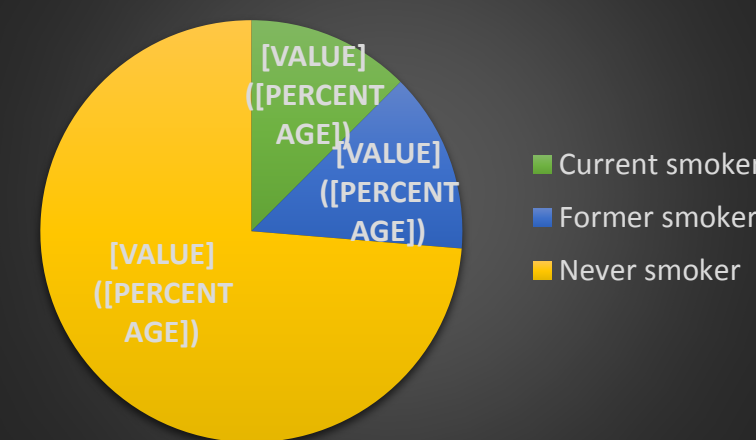


Figure 2: Undergraduate Prevalence of E-Cigarette, Cigarettes, and Any Tobacco Product

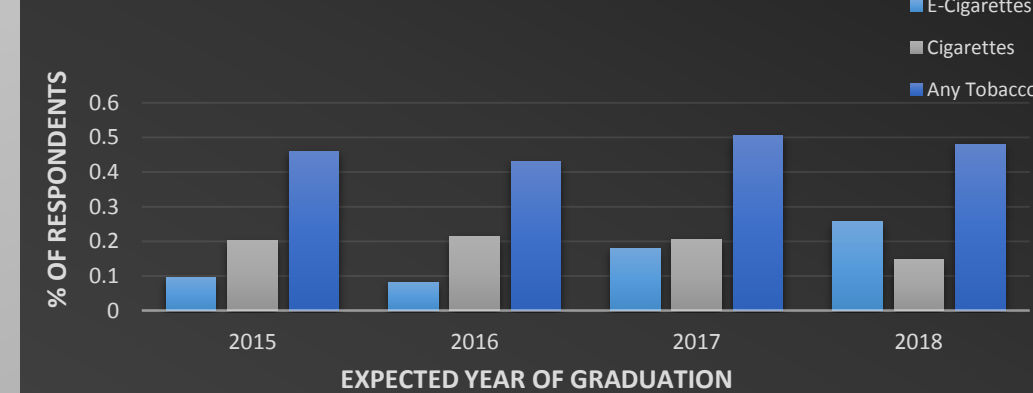


Figure 3: E-Cigarette Users by Smoking Status

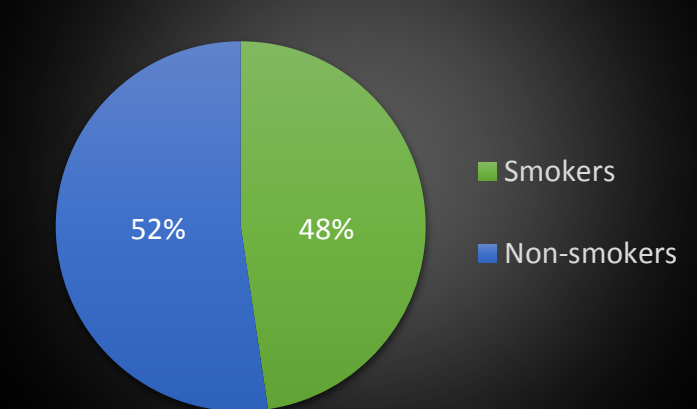


Figure 4: Tobacco-Free Attitudes Score

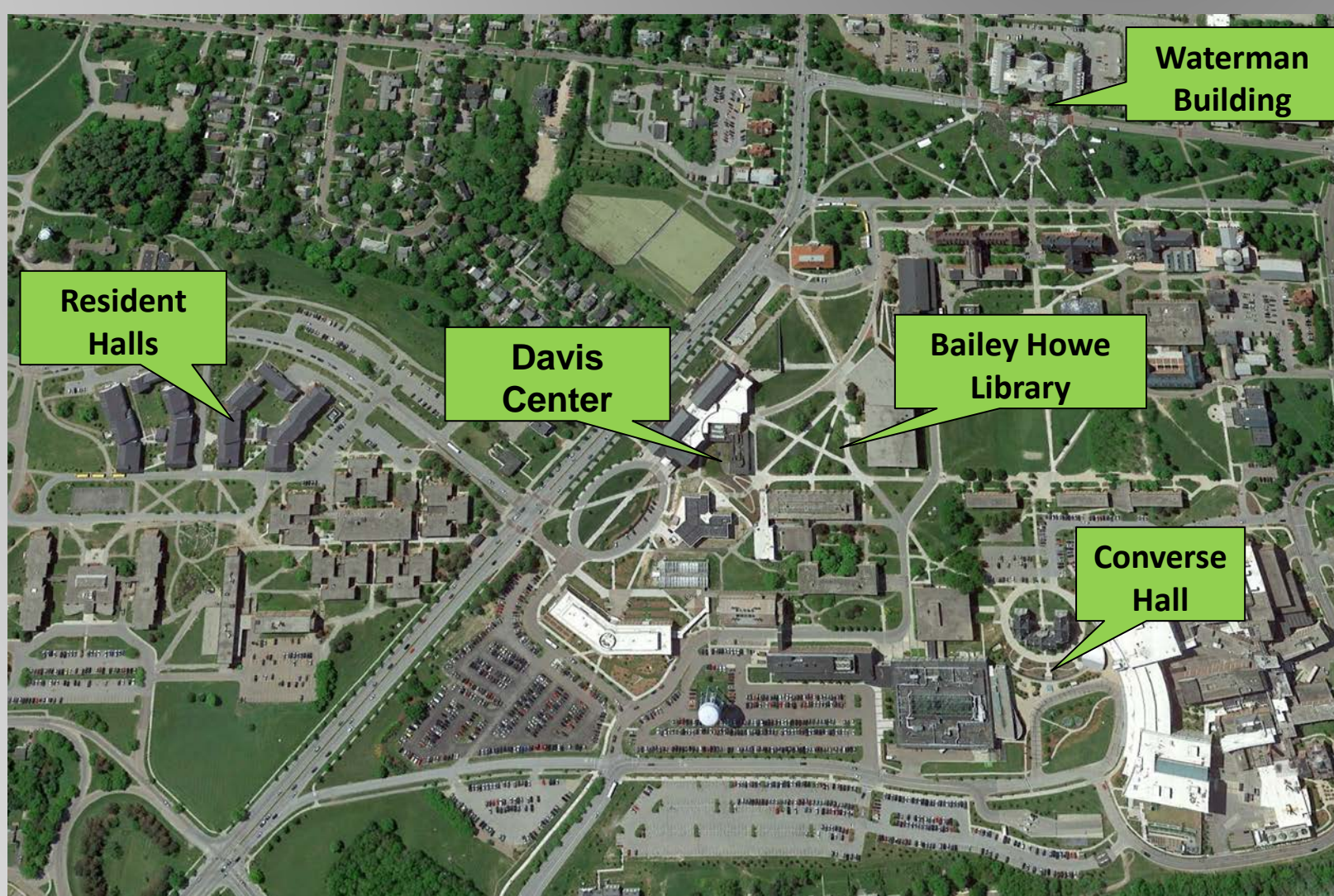
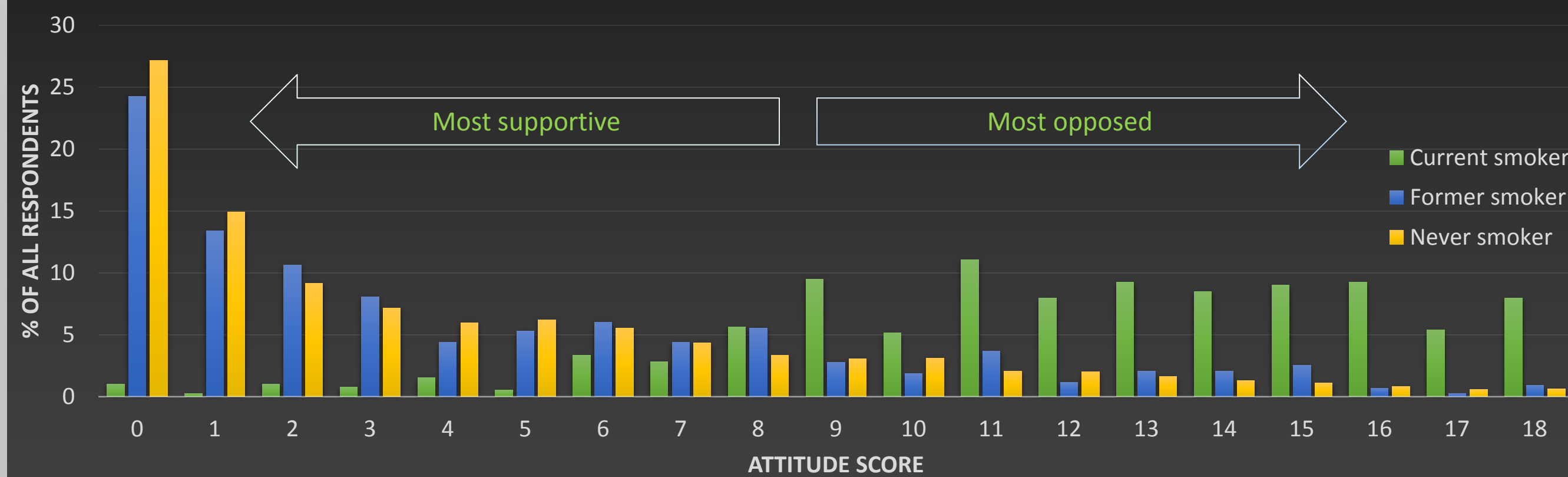


Table 2: Campus Locations and Prevalence of Second-Hand Smoke Exposure

| Location on UVM Campus | N (%) |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Outside Bailey Howe Library | 1343 (42.4) |
| Outside a Residence Hall | 1055 (33.2) |
| In a Parking Lot | 1038 (32.7) |
| Outside the Davis Center | 1020 (32.1) |
| Outside the Fleming Museum | 336 (10.6) |
| Outside Converse Hall | 327 (10.3) |
| Sidewalks/Walking Around Campus* | 115 |
| Outside UVM Medical Center* | 79 |
| Outside Waterman Building* | 72 |
| Everywhere* | 17 |
| Outside UHC* | 17 |
| Bus Stop (non-UVM Medical Center)* | 7 |
| Kalkin Hall* | 6 |

*Write-in responses

Discussion

Prevalence of Tobacco Product Use

- Smoking prevalence varied among undergraduates (19.1%), staff (7.5%), graduate students (5.1%), and faculty (2.2%). 68.1% of respondents reported second-hand smoke exposure on campus and 54.7% knew where to find cessation resources on campus
- On average, 47.2% of undergraduate students reported using some form of tobacco in the last 30 days
- 25.7% of freshman undergraduates used e-cigarettes in the last 30 days; underclassmen were 2.9 times more likely to use e-cigarettes than upperclassmen. The odds of being a current smoker were 1.54 times higher in students who live off-campus compared to students who live on-campus; see **Figure 2**
- 52% of respondents that did not fit the classification criteria of smoker (smoked >100 cigarettes in their lifetime and currently smoke "sometimes" or "every day") reported using cigarettes in the last 30 days. 48% of respondents that were classified as smokers smoked e-cigarettes in the last 30 days; see **Figure 3**

Tobacco-Free Attitude Score

- There was a significant effect of smoking status on agreement with a Tobacco-Free campus [F(1,3121)= 1187.0, p= 0.001], with non-smokers' disagreement scored at 4.0 and smokers' disagreement scored at 12.1; see **Figure 4**

Conclusion

Results provide baseline data to assess the longitudinal impact of a Tobacco-Free policy.

References

- Freedman KS, Nelson NM, Feldman LL. Smoking initiation among young adults in the United States and Canada, 1998-2010: a systematic review. *Prev Chronic Dis* 2012;9:110037
- No-smoke.org*. Rep. American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation, 1 Jan. 2015. Web. 12 Jan. 2015
- Tobacco-Free UVM Website. <http://www.uvm.edu/tobaccofree/>. Last accessed January 12, 2015.