

INFORMED CONSENT FOR RESEARCH

TITLE OF PROJECT: Assessing Tenant and Landlord Perceptions about Smoke-free Policies in Multi-Unit Housing in LA County during the COVID-19 pandemic

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Lourdes Baezconde-Garbanati, Ph.D.

We invite you to take part in a research study if you are a tenant living in a multi-unit housing complex in unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County (duplex, condo, apartment building, etc.) and are 21 years of age or older. This is sponsored by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LADPH), Los Angeles Tobacco Control Program (LATCP). The following information will explain the details about the study. You should ask questions before deciding whether you wish to participate, or at any time during the course of the study.

Purpose

This study is about learning how people living in multi-unit housing feel about smoke/vape-free policies. We want to find out about their views and knowledge on smoke/vape-free policies. We would also like to learn if tenants in multi-unit housing support restrictions on tobacco, marijuana, and electronic cigarettes. You are invited as a possible participant because you live in an apartment complex that is in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. This research is being funded by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LADPH), Los Angeles Tobacco Control Program (LATCP).

Procedure

If you agree to take part, you may be asked to complete a screening survey where you will be asked to provide your apartment/condo address (multi-unit housing) and phone number which will be used to verify your eligibility. If you meet the eligibility criteria, you will receive a survey link and unique ID number within 1-4 business days either via email or by phone. Once you have a unique ID number for participation, you will complete a survey. This should take about 15 minutes. You will be asked a series of questions about tobacco, electronic cigarettes, marijuana and smoke/vape-free policies. At the end of the survey, you will be asked to provide your name and contact information to receive a gift card. Our study staff will be available to assist you with any questions you may have.

The window of participation will close once our target participation sample is met.

Risks and Discomforts

Possible risks and discomforts you could experience during this study include:

Surveys/Questionnaires/Interviews: Some of the questions may make you feel uneasy or embarrassed. You do not need to answer any questions that you do not want to answer.

Breach of Confidentiality: There is a small risk that people who are not connected with this study will learn your identity or your personal information.

Benefits

There are no direct benefits to you from taking part in the study, however, the knowledge gained will help researchers understand how tobacco, marijuana, and electronic cigarettes affects tenants of apartment complexes.

Privacy/Confidentiality

We will keep your records for this study confidential as far as permitted by law. However, if we are required to do so by law, we will disclose confidential information about you. Efforts will be made to limit the use and disclosure of your personal information, including research study and medical records, to people who are required to review this information. We may publish the information from this study in journals or present it at meetings. If we do, we will not use your name.

The University of Southern California's Institutional Review Board (IRB) may review your records. Organizations that may also inspect and copy your information include the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LADPH), Los Angeles Tobacco Control Program (LATCP).

Only the people who work on this study will see your responses to the survey. We will not ask for your name on the survey. Instead, we will label your survey with a number. We will only request your name to send you a gift card after completing the survey. We will store this information separately from the surveys and will not be linked to survey responses. We will keep the surveys in locked cabinets; information stored in computers will be password-protected. The information you provide will only be used for research and educational purposes.

Your information or samples that is/are collected as part of this research will be used or distributed for future research studies without your additional informed consent. Any information that identifies you (such as your name) will be removed from your private information or samples before being shared with others.

Alternatives

An alternative would be to not participate in this study.

Payment

After a survey is completed, study staff will verify survey participants eligibility by checking apartment building address and other qualifying questions. Staff may reach out to participants to verify information. After a survey has been deemed eligible, tenant survey participants will receive a \$20 gift card for participant's time in completing the survey.

Any suspicious activity will be investigated, and a gift card may not be issued if eligibility cannot be determined.

Voluntary Participation

You can choose not to participate in this survey. No one will be upset if you don't want to do this. If you don't want to complete the survey, you just have to tell us. If you decide to take part and change your mind later, you can discontinue without any penalty. You are not giving up any legal claims or rights.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns about the research, please feel free to contact Lourdes Baezconde-Garbanati, PhD, by email at baezcond@usc.edu or by phone at 323-442-8231.

This research has been reviewed by the USC Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB is a research review board that reviews and monitors research studies to protect the rights and welfare of research participants. Contact the IRB if you have questions about your rights as a research participant or you have complaints about the research. You may contact the IRB at (323) 442-0114 or by email at irb@usc.edu.

We can provide you with a copy of this form upon request. Thank you.

