

CAMPUS TOBACCO POLICY ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN



With Public Health - Seattle & King County

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Introduction

17% of King County residents between ages 18-24 use tobacco

Campus tobacco policies need to be evaluated to ensure the written policy reflects what is taking place on each campus

Project goal: Use PHSKC's PolicyTracker LawAtlasSM tool to track implementation of tobacco policies across selected secondary institution campuses in King County

Purpose

Understand the implementation of tobacco policies at campuses

Methods

Walk campuses observing:

- Smoking
- Cigarette butts
- Signage
- & more...

Use uniform data collection tool to collect and record data

Compare observations to written policies to determine similarities and differences

Results

100 % Tobacco Free Policy Campuses

Signage was not present at Seattle Pacific University or Northwest University (religiously-affiliated schools), both campuses with 100% tobacco-free policies, yet no smokers or butts were observed.

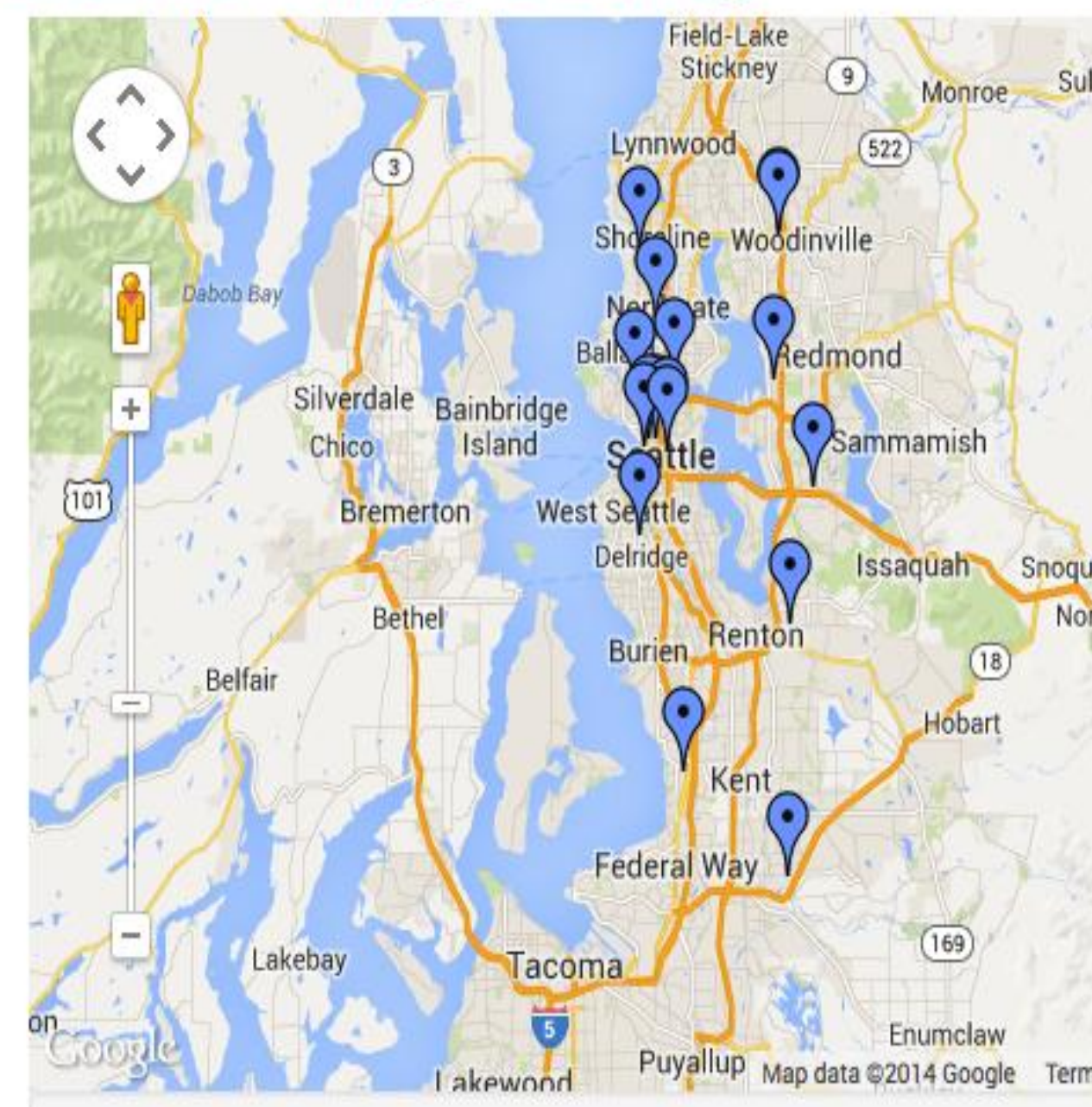
The butts found on sidewalks at the Art Institute of Seattle and Antioch University were on public sidewalks adjacent to the academic building.

Limited Tobacco Policy Campuses

Only one smoker was found at UW Bothell outside of the designated smoking area. Signage was consistent in wording at each building entrance.

Signage is inconsistent at both North Seattle Comm. College (NSCC) and Seattle Central Community College (SCCC) in location and wording. Many butts found on both campuses.

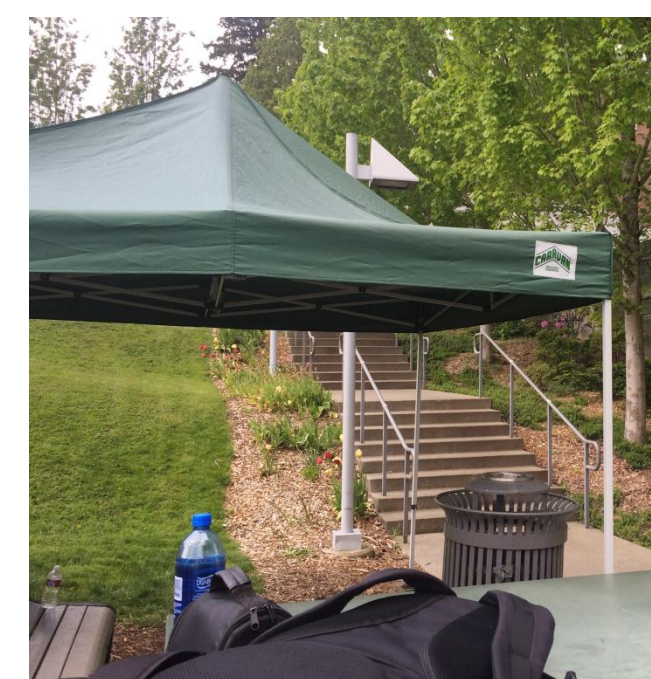
Seattle-King County



PolicyTracker LawAtlasSM Tool-Campuses with Tobacco Policies



Exact sign is posted at each building entrance at UW Bothell



UW Bothell Designated Smoking Area



19 students were found smoking near this "No Smoking" Area at SCCC



Only sign for designated smoking areas on NSCC campus

Conclusions

Religiously affiliated schools may be a cause for stronger adherence to tobacco policies.

Consistent signage (in wording, location and universally displayed on all buildings) may increase compliance to the policy,

Religiously affiliated schools may have disciplinary action from the university as a punishment for being found with tobacco which may increase adherence to policy.

Limitations

Not all campuses in King County (and tracked in the PolicyTracker) were evaluated

Student traffic levels were not even across campuses

Recommendations for Future Efforts

Observe campus during peak student traffic levels such as between classes

Add a qualitative portion to the survey

Ensure collection during consistent weather patterns

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