

## Lake County Clerk of the Board

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**From:** Stephanie Porrazzo <sporrazzo@healthcollaborative.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 23, 2024 10:42 AM  
**To:** Lake County Clerk of the Board  
**Cc:** Amber Wier  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Submission for public comment on ordinance for the unincorporated and County owned and leased properties governed by the Board of Supervisors which regulates smoking and tobacco use.  
**Attachments:** Public Opinion on Secondhand Smoke Exposure - Lake 2024.pdf

Hello Lake County Board of Supervisors and County Clerk,

NorCal 4 Health compiled public opinion data gathered August 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from Lake County residents about secondhand smoke exposure. We were pleased to have 72 responses and would like to share what we have learned. The detailed public opinion document is attached for your review.

Key findings from the survey indicate residents are frequently exposed to secondhand smoke in various public spaces, including parks and trails, shopping centers, public walkways, outdoor dining areas, and community events. Among these, parks and trails are reported to be the most problematic, with cigarette smoke being the most common type experienced, though exposure to vapes and cannabis was also noted.

Respondents expressed significant frustration and concern related to their exposure. Common feelings included a lack of consideration from others, fear for personal health, apprehension about confrontations, and a sense of helplessness due to perceived inaction and lack of support.

The residents of Lake County, like everyone else, deserve to breathe clean air. Your attention and action on this matter would greatly benefit the community.

Thank you,

**Stephanie Porrazzo, MPA** (she/her)

Community Engagement Coordinator

NorCal 4 Health project

California Health Collaborative

[www.NorCal4Health.org](http://www.NorCal4Health.org)

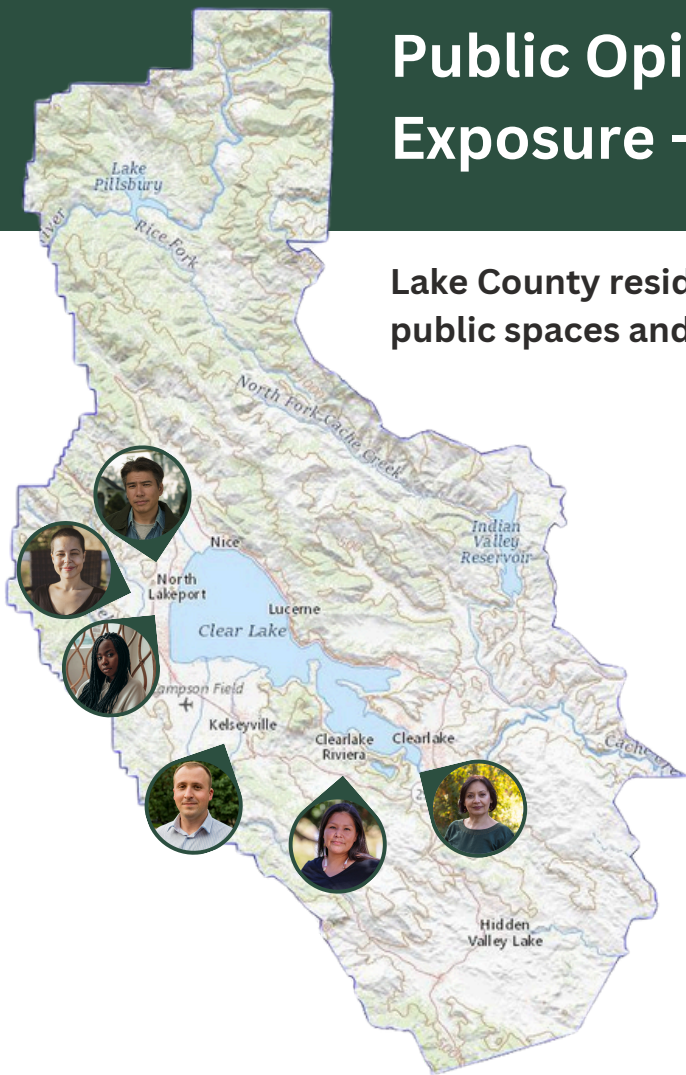
[www.healthcollaborative.org](http://www.healthcollaborative.org)



CALIFORNIA HEALTH  
COLLABORATIVE



# Public Opinion on Secondhand Smoke Exposure - Lake, 2024



Lake County residents share experiences of exposure in public spaces and public events. \*



“Last summer, my family and I were exposed to secondhand cannabis smoke at the Kelseyville County Park during a community picnic. My younger sister, who has asthma, started coughing and wheezing. We had to leave the picnic early to ensure my sister's safety. The incident was frustrating and worrying, especially since we were trying to enjoy a family outing. It highlighted the need for better enforcement of no-smoking policies in public spaces and more consideration from smokers towards those around them.”

-Kelseyville Resident



“My boyfriend and I were eating at the park picnic tables, and a group of people at the table opposite of us were smoking. The wind blew the smoke our way, we asked if they could smoke elsewhere, they yelled at us.”

-Lakeport Resident



“Anytime there's a gathering like the 4th of July we can't seem to keep my small children away from it.”

-Clearlake Riviera Resident



“Last month, my dog and I were exposed to secondhand cannabis smoke while walking on the Lakeport Park trail. The incident left me frustrated and concerned about the lack of consideration for others in public spaces.”

-Lakeport Resident



“I have asthma so my lungs close up as soon as I smell smoke and I had to hold my breath while getting my littlest buckled up and putting the groceries in the car. I didn't try to stop the exposure just because I was worried about my kids breathing in that smoke.”

-Cobb Resident

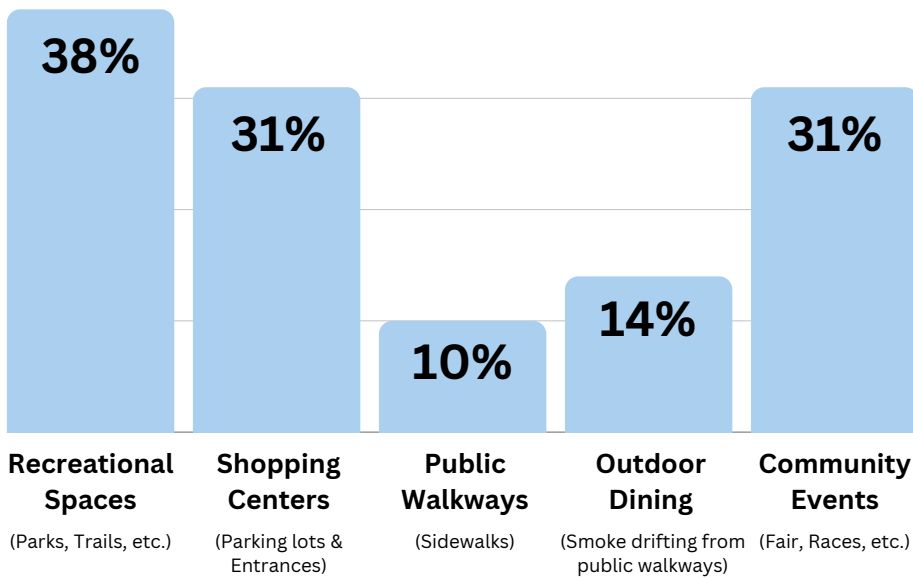


“I would say the incident that was the most disturbing to me was at the races in Lakeport. We were sitting in the main grandstand, and it was crowded. There were people vaping and lighting up Marijuana all around us. When my husband asked them to go somewhere else to smoke and not do it next to our children the man refused, and it almost turned into a physical altercation. They used to have signs that said no smoking and even announced regularly that they had a no smoking policy. My fear is that our children will continue to be exposed to secondhand smoke at the fair coming up in August as well.”

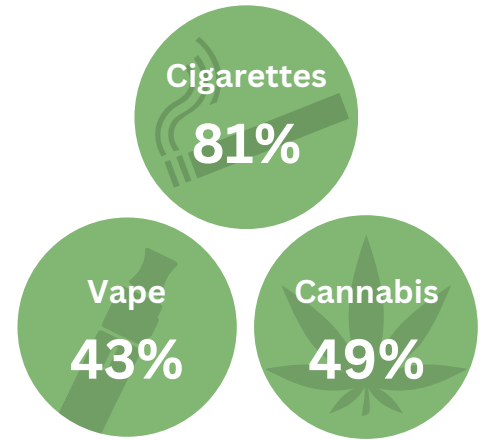
-Lower Lake Resident

\*Anonymous survey conducted on 8/15/2024 by the NorCal 4 Health project. Lake County resident images are representative of respondents and not actual individuals.

## Locations of Secondhand Smoke Exposure



## Types of Secondhand Smoke Exposure



## Most residents experienced several types of secondhand smoke in multiple locations

“**Not much we could do** while we were seated & eating, so I fanned the air in front of my face.”

-Lakeport Resident

“**It makes me feel uncomfortable and disrespected**”

-Clearlake Resident

“I have asked people to please stop when it’s cigarettes which can be a **50/50 shot of getting yelled at**, ignored or they’re nice.”

-Lakeport Resident

“Unfortunately, **people do not respect the fact that some people do not want to breathe smoke** from their cigarettes, vapes and cannabis.”

-Lower Lake Resident

“Almost anywhere I go in public there are people smoking, whether it be cannabis or cigarettes or vapes. It affects me because **I don’t smoke so why should I have to put up with second hand smoke?** But I know it’s almost impossible to avoid.”

-Lower Lake Resident

