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Research paper

## Smoke-free and tobacco-free colleges and universities in the United States

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### Abstract

**Objective** To describe the number and proportion of accredited, degree-granting institutions with 100% smoke-free and 100% tobacco-free protections across the USA and by state.

**Methods** Data on postsecondary education institutions from the US Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System 2015, and smoke-free and tobacco-free campus protections from the American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation's Smokefree and Tobacco-Free Colleges and Universities List 2017, were integrated to calculate the number and proportion of: (1) smoke-free and tobacco-free accredited, degree-granting institutions and (2) students and staff protected by campus policies and state laws. Campus protections are given a 100% smoke-free designation if smoking is not allowed on campus anywhere, at any time; 100% tobacco-free designations extend smoke-free protections to include non-combustible products such as smokeless tobacco.

**Results** 823 accredited, degree-granting institutions (16.7%) representing 1816 individual campuses, sites and schools have either 100% smoke-free or 100% tobacco-free protections. An estimated 14.9 million college students (26.9%) and 8.9 million faculty and staff (25.4%) are protected by campus policies and state laws. Only three states and two territories have 100% smoke-free or 100% tobacco-free protections in over half of their institutions; four states and six territories have no known 100% smoke-free or 100% tobacco-free campus protections.



**Conclusions** In 2017, just 16.7% of accredited, degree-granting institutions in the USA had 100% smoke-free or 100% tobacco-free protections. Despite progress, more efforts can ensure that students and staff benefit from comprehensive 100% smoke-free and 100% tobacco-free protections at US colleges and universities.

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## Footnotes

**Contributors:** KDB: conceived of study, provided oversight and expertise, analysed and interpreted data, drafted manuscript and reviewer response. ALK: led data integration and data analysis, assisted with data interpretation; and contributed to manuscript and reviewer response. LW, LC and CH: provided American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation data, interpreted data, contributed to manuscript and contributed to reviewer response (LW). CD, BS and HKK: provided content expertise and historical background, reviewed and interpreted data and contributed to manuscript.

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