# GAMING SURVEY SHOWS GAMBLERS PREFER SMOKE FREE CASINOS



Information compiled from **"Smoking in Casinos: Did We Have It Wrong?"** Presented at the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) 2021 Indian Gaming Tradeshow & Convention by Michael Meczka, <u>MMRC</u>; Terry Savage, Lake Superior Band of Chippewa; Andrew Klebanow, <u>C3 Gaming</u>; and Clinton Isham, <u>ANR Foundation</u>.

Data presented from a 2021 MMRC study on Smoking vs. No smoking in Casinos conducted at Pacific Northwest Tribal casinos. N=1,500 players surveyed

#### What did we think we knew about smoking & casinos prior to the pandemic?

- We *thought* smokers made up the majority of gamblers.
- We *thought* smokers gambled more than non-smokers.
- We *thought* smoking bans would be economic suicide.

–Andrew Klebanow, Principal, Klebanow Consulting



The percent of adults who smoke stands at 14% today and has been trending downward for decades



### Primary Reason for Visiting Casino of Choice Most Often

1. Location Close to Home (32%)

2. Smoking is NOT allowed (26%)

THE 2ND LEADING MAIN REASON IN CASINO SELECTION IS A PREFERENCE FOR SMOKEFREE PLAYING

### Environment Preference Now That Casinos Have Reopened

Nearly 8 of 10 players would prefer to play in a nonsmoking environment regardless of identification as a smoker or non smoker.

# **79%** WOULD PREFER TO PLAY IN A SMOKEFREE CASINO

The pandemic allowed tribes to push cigarettes out of the building with little or no measurable economic impact.

## ATTITUDES on smoking in a

player's gaming environment have been affected by the pandemic

### THERE HAS BEEN A DECREASE IN PLAYER'S TOLERANCE OF SMOKING IN THE GAMING ENVIRONMENT

#### Pre-Pandemic

Attribute	Total	Loc. A	Loc. B
Not OK for Anyone	54%	50%	57%
OK for Anyone	26%	32%	23%
Ok for Others but Not Me	19%	18%	20%

#### Post Reopening

Attribute	Tota	Loc. A	Loc. B
Not OK for Anyone	66%	60%	68%
OK for Anyone	23%	29%	21%
Ok for Others but Not Me	11%	11%	11%

# AS OF JULY 2021 THERE ARE approximately 1,034 SMOKEFREE GAMING VENUES

including at least **157** Tribal gaming facilities.







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