

COMMUNITY COLLEGE TIMES

N.C. leads nation in tobacco-free campus policies

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North Carolina has the most number of college campuses that have voluntarily banned or severely restricted smoking, according to a study by University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill researchers.

The study, published in the journal *Tobacco Control*, found that in the first four years of the North Carolina Tobacco-Free Colleges Initiative, 33 college campuses in the state—including 26 community colleges—have adopted tobacco-free policies. (**College of Albemarle** was the first public two-year college in the state to do so in December 2006, and **Surry Community College** was the most recent this April.)

The state created the **North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF)** in 2000 to allocate a portion of North Carolina's share of the national tobacco settlement. HWTF first targeted reducing smoking among adolescents and teens. The college initiative was developed in 2006 to curb an increase in smoking among college students that researchers observed in the 1990s. It has received \$3 million in funding over the last four years.

"Addressing tobacco use among young adults in college is particularly important as experimentation with smoking can become cemented as a daily routine during college," said Tom Brown, HWTF's tobacco program officer.

A list of tobacco-free campuses in North Carolina is available [here](#).

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