



C4, a youth program of the **Asian Health Coalition of Illinois**, is pleased to present the results of the small restaurant survey administered in the Vietnamese / New Chinatown area of Chicago. Surveys were administered in June of 2005, with our youth restaurant window cleaning / community service day.

Second hand smoke in the argyle community has become a health and environmental concern for many Asian residents and customers who frequent the area. But also, it has become a concern for restaurant owners and their families. This survey was conducted to better understand the perspectives of the restaurant owners on issues that impact the health and well-being of the community members and businesses.

Surveys were administered by **C4** youth in both Vietnamese & Chinese languages. A total of 19 restaurants participated, as each restaurant was awarded a certificate of appreciation for their participation, and were provided free window cleaning services. Below were the participating restaurants.

<i>Furama (Phu Le Hoa)</i>	<i>Café Hoang</i>
<i>Dong Ky</i>	<i>Hing Lung</i>
<i>Hon Kee</i>	<i>Anh Linh Café</i>
<i>Nhu Hoa Café</i>	<i>Ba Le</i>
<i>Sun Wah</i>	<i>Thai Binh</i>
<i>Lucks Food</i>	<i>Tien Giang</i>
<i>Pho 777</i>	<i>Pho 888</i>
<i>Thai Avenue</i>	<i>Thai Pastry</i>
<i>Pho Hoa</i>	<i>Honey Moon Court</i>
<i>Argyle Restaurant (name omitted)</i>	

Results show that restaurants share similar concerns about the well-being of their businesses, and conditions of the Argyle community. A number of restaurants expressed that homelessness and poverty was a major problem that required immediate attention, while others wanted cleaner streets and more accessible public trash cans. Other concerns expressed include neighborhood safety for their children, and exposure to second hand smoking in restaurants.

Because there is a lack of clean in-door air policies, almost 90% of the restaurants surveyed allow customers to smoke. Consequently, non-smoking patrons, restaurant owners and staff, and their children, are exposed to second hand smoke. But at the same time, nearly 58% of restaurant owners surveyed would consider having their restaurant become completely smoke-free under different conditions.

As you read the results of this survey, **C4** hopes that the information gathered serves as a building block between restaurant owners, their families, patrons, youth, and other members of the community, to work together in envisioning a greater Argyle. A community that is cleaner, healthier and safer, where all of our families and businesses can thrive.

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C4 Restaurant Survey Report

Number of years restaurants have been open:

- 52% of restaurants have been open 10 + years
- 32% have been open 1 – 4 years.
- 16% have been open 5 – 9 years.

Livelihood of restaurants:

- 79% of restaurants believe their restaurants are doing very well, to average.
- 21% said that business doing below average and could be better.

What restaurants would like to see happen in the community to improve business:

- 42% of restaurants want cleaner streets
- 38% of restaurants want homelessness and poverty addressed.
- 10.5% of restaurants want gangs and crimes to cease.

- * One restaurant mentioned that the community has high racial tensions.
- * One restaurant wanted more tourist in the area to enhance commerce, modeled after Chinatown square (S. Archer & Wentworth Ave).

Kind of customers restaurants serve:

- 100% of restaurants served Asian customers, both smokers and non-smokers.
- 95% of restaurants say they have a mixed customer base, serving Asians and Non-Asians.

Kind of customers restaurants would prefer:

- Over 90% of restaurants surveyed preferred a mixed customer base.
- Half of this percentage, or 45% overall, preferred non-smokers.

- * Several restaurants believed that Non-Asian patrons spend more money, are more courteous, and are less likely to be smokers.

Smoking or Non-Smoking?

- 90% of restaurants surveyed said they allowed smoking
- 10% said they did not

- * For restaurants that did allow smoking, they designated no more than 1/3rd of their dining space for smoking.

Would restaurants consider going completely Smoke-Free?

- 58% of Argyle street restaurants said “yes” they would consider making their restaurants completely smoke-free.

- * Among this group, 2 restaurants mentioned that smoking is disrespectful.
- * Several restaurant owners stated they would like to have a healthier environment for their children (when present), for their staff, and or customers.
- * One restaurant owner noted that a smoke-free policy would improve restaurant ambience.

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- 21% of Argyle area restaurants said “no” a smoke-free policy would be a bad idea because of their regular customers who smoke.
 - * Among this group, 3 restaurants believed there are many potential customers in Argyle who smoke.
- Another 21% of restaurants replied “I don’t know,” given the pros & cons of a smoke-free restaurant.
 - * Some comments among this group include:
 - “I would go smoke free if all the other restaurants on Argyle went smoke-free,” and
 - “I really don’t know. But if the law says to go smoke free, then there is no debating.”
 - “I don’t know, its really up to the government.”

Ethnic breakdown of restaurant owners:

- 52% self identify as Vietnamese
 - 21% identify as Chinese
 - 16% identify as both Vietnamese & Chinese
 - 11% as Thai
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We are pleased to find that restaurants are concerned with the well being of the community, and that almost 60% of restaurant owners are willing to go smoke-free in order to protect their families, staff, and customers. Based on these findings, **C4** looks to build stronger relationships with restaurant owners to provide youth & community support in the enhancement of business and community development.

C4 youth would like to thank all of the participating restaurants for their positive feedback and encouragement during our survey. Many restaurant owners provided youth volunteers and surveyors with free drinks, bubble tea, and other wonderful snacks in appreciation for **C4**'s community service and outreach efforts. We want restaurants to know that we appreciate all of their gestures, and that we fully support each and every restaurant in the Argyle community.

C4 will be providing *free* special community events open to the public. Events will be announced through the general media, and invitations will be sent to all restaurant owners and their families, along with Uptown area community organizations.

❖For further inquiries about this project, please contact Freedom D. Nguyen at the Asian Health Coalition of Illinois. Freedom@asianhealth.org (773) 878 - 0761