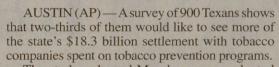
Survey displays Texans like tobacco prevention

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Two-thirds of 900 residents wish to see \$17.3 billion settlement used on programs



The study, released Monday, was conducted in October by the University of Texas-Houston. It found that about half of those surveyed fa-

vored using the funds to build schools and provide health insurance for children. Less than one-third supported using the money for roads and tax relief.

Angela Meschack, project director for the study, said the results showed that there is a gap between the money spent and the level of money people want spent

She recommended that the Legislature follow public opinion when drafting the budgets during he next session that begins in January.

The study was sponsored by a grant from the National Institute of Health and had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent. The state received

about \$1.8 billion for the current two-ye period that ends Aug. 1, 2001.

About \$20 million was set aside for an co programs. According to Meschack, the for Disease Control in Atlanta suggest tween \$100 million and \$200 million bes tobacco control. Mescack said lawmaker be reluctant to spend the money on preve grams because the state makes about \$500 a year on taxes from cigarettes.



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