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Smoke-Free Laws Make Sense for Business!

✓ Smoke-Free Laws Have No Negative Impact on Restaurants and Bars

- The National Cancer Institute, with the World Health Organization, in 2016 published an extensive review of the economic literature on tobacco control, concluding, “The evidence clearly demonstrates that smoke-free policies do not cause adverse economic outcomes for businesses, including restaurants and bars. In fact, smoke-free policies often have a positive economic impact on businesses.”
- According to the [CDC](#), “Evidence from peer-reviewed studies examining objective measures such as taxable sales revenue and employment levels shows that smokefree policies and regulations do not have an adverse economic impact on the hospitality industry.”
- [CDC’s Community Preventive Services Task Force](#) analyzed two reviews of over 170 studies (1988 to 2012), concluding that “Smoke-free policies did not have an adverse economic impact on the business activity of restaurants, bars, or establishments catering to tourists; some studies found a small positive effect of these policies.
- A [2009 review](#) of the extensive literature on the economic impact of smoke-free workplace laws concluded that smoke-free policies do not have a negative impact on the business activity of restaurants, bars, or establishments catering to tourists (with many studies finding a small positive effect).
- An in-depth analysis of more than ten years of [tax revenue data in California](#) found that the 1995 state smoke-free restaurant law was associated with an increase in restaurant revenues, while the 1998 state smoke-free bar law was associated with an increase in bar revenues
- Data published in 2010 from [ten Minnesota cities](#) found that local smoke-free laws had no negative impact on bar and restaurant revenue. This was true for total taxable sales as well as revenue from alcohol sales.
- An April 2005 [Harvard School of Public Health study](#) found that Massachusetts’ comprehensive smoke-free law did not affect sales or employment in the state’s restaurants, bars, and nightclubs after taking effect on July 5, 2004.
- A [March 2004 report](#) issued by the City of New York noted that one year after the city’s law went into effect, “...the data are clear...Since the law went into effect, business receipts for restaurants and bars have increased, employment has risen, virtually all establishments are complying with the law, and the number of new liquor licenses issued has increased—all signs that New York City bars and restaurants are prospering.”
- In October 2010, the [Executive Director of the Connecticut Restaurant Association](#) said that the smoke-free law was a big issue for restaurateurs when it was implemented in October of 2003, but that today, “[t]he smoking ban is not an issue at all for restaurants. . . When it first passed, restaurateurs were really nervous that once the ban was put into effect people wouldn’t come out to eat and drink, and that’s not what happened. Seven years later, customers are really happy to go out to bars and to eat and drink and not be in an atmosphere of smoke.”