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## Smoke-Free Laws are Good for Public Health, Good for Workers, and Good for Business!

### ✓ Good for Public Health

- **Everyone has the right to breathe clean air.** The [Surgeon General's Report](#) on The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke confirmed that secondhand smoke causes cancer, heart disease and serious lung ailments. The Surgeon General stated when releasing the report, "The debate is over. The science is clear. Secondhand smoke is not a mere annoyance but a serious health hazard."
- A 2010 Report by the Surgeon General found that tobacco smoke contains a deadly mixture of [more than 7,000 chemicals](#) and compounds, of which hundreds are toxic and at least 69 cause cancer.
- According to the [Centers For Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), more than 41,000 Americans die each year from lung cancer and heart disease attributable to secondhand smoke exposure.

### ✓ Good for Workers

- Smoke-free policies are the only effective way to protect nonsmokers from secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke exposure [decreases substantially](#) among nonsmoking employees of restaurants and bars (and among nonsmoking adults in the general public) after implementing smoke-free laws.
- Hospitality workers are [immediately protected](#) when smoke-free laws take effect. Studies of hospitality workers before and after smoke-free laws show significant reductions in self-reported exposure to secondhand smoke, along with declines in respiratory symptoms.
- Just one month after Minnesota's Freedom to Breathe law went into effect, [exposure to a carcinogen from tobacco](#) in a group of nonsmoking hospitality workers fell by 85 percent, and nicotine exposure by 83 percent.
- Before New York bars and restaurants went smoke free, 88 percent of hospitality workers reported experiencing sensory symptoms (red or irritated eyes, sore or scratchy throat, runny nose, sneezing or nose irritation). One year after the law took effect, complaints of sensory symptoms among the sample of workers dropped by 57 percent. ([Tobacco Control](#), 2005).
- Smoke-free laws encourage workers to quit smoking: [A 2018 study](#) found that the odds of smoking were significantly lower among indoor workers who reported a 100% smoke-free policy at their workplace than workers with a partial or no smoke-free policy at their workplace.

### ✓ Good for Business

- The National Cancer Institute, with the World Health Organization, conducted an [extensive review of the economic literature on tobacco control](#), concluding, "Overall, studies meeting the strongest criteria for scientific rigor have generally found that smoke-free policies have either no significant impact or a small positive impact on employment."
- The [Surgeon General's 2006 Report](#) examined numerous economic impact studies from states and local communities across the country. The report concluded that, "Evidence from peer-reviewed studies shows that smoke-free policies and regulations do not have an adverse economic impact on the hospitality industry."
- 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."

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