

SECONDHAND SMOKE AND SMOKE-FREE POLICY



QUICK FACTS

Kentucky
UNBRIDLED SPIRIT™

Cabinet for Health and Family Services

SMOKE
FREE
KENTUCKY

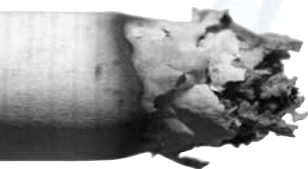


The U.S. Surgeon General Says Secondhand Smoke is Deadly

- Tobacco smoke contains 7,000 chemicals, hundreds of which are toxic and cause immediate damage to nearly all body organs.¹
- In 2006, the Surgeon General declared that the debate is over and the science is clear – there is no safe level of secondhand smoke exposure.²
- For the last 4 decades, U.S. Surgeon Generals have called for smoke-free laws to protect workers and the public from the dangers of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand Smoke Causes Heart Disease

- Secondhand smoke causes over 46,000 coronary heart disease deaths annually among adult nonsmokers in the U.S.²
- Heart and blood vessel changes occur immediately when exposed to secondhand smoke.³
- Secondhand smoke can trigger heart attacks.³



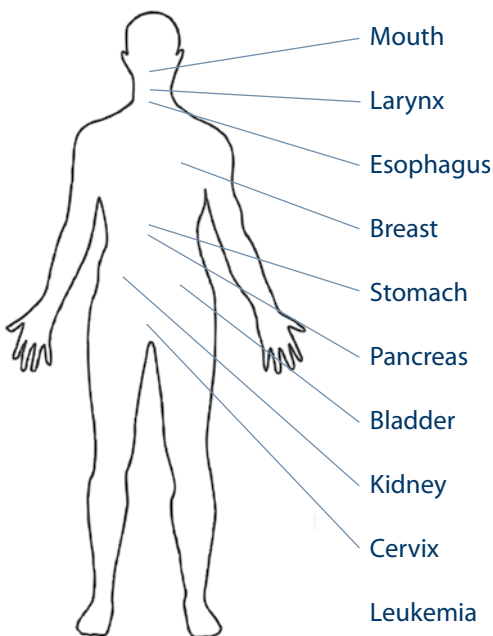
A MATTER OF HEALTH

Secondhand Smoke Causes Lung Disease

- Secondhand smoke causes an estimated 3,000 lung cancer deaths every year in the U.S.²
- Nonsmokers exposed to secondhand smoke have an estimated 20-30% greater risk for lung cancer.²
- Secondhand smoke is a major health threat to persons with asthma and it causes respiratory infections such as pneumonia and bronchitis.²

Secondhand Smoke Causes Other Serious Health Conditions

- Secondhand smoke increases the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and middle ear infections in children.¹
- Secondhand smoke causes damage to the DNA,¹ leading to many forms of cancer including:





Smoke-free Laws Do Not Hurt Business in Rural or Urban Communities

- Smoke-free is good for business regardless of whether the location is rural or urban Kentucky.⁴
- Lexington's smoke-free law did not harm business.⁵
- Restaurant employment increased and bar employment was stable after the law took effect.⁵
- Business closings and openings were just as likely after the smoke-free law took effect than before the law, regardless of whether or not the business sold alcohol.⁵

DID YOU KNOW?

The most effective smoke-free laws:

- cover all workplaces and public places
- do NOT exempt specific businesses like bars, private clubs, or tobacco retailers.

NO HARM TO BUSINESS

Neither Local nor State Smoke-free Laws Hurt Business

- Business did not suffer in Kentucky (local laws) or Ohio (state law) after their laws took effect.⁶

Smoke-free Laws Do Not Affect Sales Revenues

- Two years after the Washington State smoke-free law was implemented, revenues for bars and taverns were \$105.5 million more than expected.⁷



Smoke-free Laws Can Save Money

- Secondhand smoke costs the U.S. nearly \$10 billion per year: \$5 billion in medical costs and \$4.6 billion in lost wages.⁸
- Lexington saved an estimated \$21 million per year in healthcare costs from fewer adults smoking after the smoke-free law took effect.⁹
- For each 5% decline in smoking, Kentucky could save \$476.9 million in future Medicaid costs.¹⁰ Kentucky spends \$1.5B to treat sick smokers every year (\$487M in Medicaid costs).¹⁰



Kentuckians of All Parties Like Smoke-Free Laws

- A December 2010 poll conducted by a national marketing organization reported that 59% of likely voters in Kentucky were in favor of a statewide, smoke-free law.¹¹
- Republicans, Democrats, and Tea Party voters are equally as likely to support a statewide law.¹¹
- Rural residents are even more likely than those in urban areas in Kentucky to support smoke-free laws.¹²
- In Lexington, there was a significant increase in public support for the smoke-free law, from 56.7% pre-ordinance to 64.0% six months after the ordinance took effect in April 2004.¹³

Kentuckians Value Workers' Rights to Breathe Clean Air

67% of voters (including 48% of smokers) believe the right of customers and employees to breathe clean air in restaurants and bars is more important than the right of smokers to smoke or owners to allow smoking in these places.¹¹

A POPULAR DECISION

DID YOU KNOW?

Smoke-free policies are no different than existing regulations that ensure safety in the workplace.

Smoke-free laws do not restrict smokers from smoking. They simply restrict smoking in places where others breathe the air.

DID YOU KNOW?

Smoke-free laws respect the right to breathe smoke-free air for smokers and nonsmokers alike.

Lexington's smoke-free law was upheld by the Kentucky Supreme Court (April, 2004): "Among the police powers of the government, the power to promote and safeguard public health ranks at the top."¹⁴



All Workers Deserve Equal Health Protections

- 27% of Kentucky's blue collar workers are exposed to secondhand smoke at work.¹⁵
- Restaurant and bar workers have the greatest risk of developing lung cancer and heart disease compared to other occupations.¹⁶
- Workers and volunteers in gaming facilities such as bingo halls are exposed to high levels of secondhand smoke.¹⁷

Comprehensive Smoke-Free Laws are Necessary to Protect All Workers

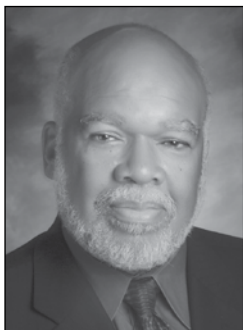
- Eliminating smoking in indoor spaces is the only strategy that fully protects nonsmokers from exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Allowing certain businesses to permit smoking is confusing for the public and the agencies responsible for enforcing the law.
- Separating smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the air, and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke.¹⁸
- Comprehensive smoke-free workplace legislation reduces the burden of chronic disease and early death.



DID YOU KNOW?

Most Kentuckians do not smoke. Only 26% of Kentucky adults smoke cigarettes.¹⁹

A comprehensive smoke-free law is the best way to protect non-smokers from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.



“Having a partial law in Louisville was a nightmare to enforce. It caused confusion, led to lawsuits, and did not protect all workers.”

– *Dr. Adewale Troutman, MD, MA, MPH
(Former Director, Louisville Metro
Department of
Public Health and Wellness)*

DID YOU KNOW?

At least 66% of Kentuckians are regularly exposed to secondhand smoke in enclosed public places.²⁰

DID YOU KNOW?

Signage-only Laws Do Not Work

Smoke-free opponents often suggest requiring businesses to merely post signs saying “smoking allowed here.”

Posting signs is no different than the status quo.

Workers are not protected with signage, only with laws covering everyone.

“...On the way back from a trip to Texas, my husband and I stopped at a restaurant that was a “private club” in a dry county. Every customer had to ‘join’ by filling out a membership card so they could serve alcohol in their ‘private club.’ What a sham! It was our first up-close-and-personal look at how an exemption might have looked in our smoke-free community. I am so very glad we have NO exemptions in Bardstown.”

– *Jayme Haslam, Smoke-free Nelson County Coalition*

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