



Smoke-free Laws: Good for Health, Good for Business

Smoke-free laws are good for health

- Tobacco smoke is a deadly mix of more than 7,000 chemicals. 70 of them cause cancer.[1]
- Secondhand smoke damages the DNA, causing cancer. It causes *immediate* changes to the heart and blood vessels, triggering heart attacks.[1]
- Nonsmokers exposed to any amount of secondhand smoke increase their risk of lung cancer by about 20-30%.[2]
- At least 38,000 *non-smokers* die each year in the U.S. from other people's tobacco smoke.[3]
- There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.[1]

Smoke-free laws are good for business

- The science is clear. Numerous studies show that smoke-free laws do not hurt business and they save healthcare costs.[4]
- Lexington's smoke-free law did not hurt business. Restaurant employment in Lexington increased and bar employment was stable after the law took effect.[5]
- Secondhand smoke exposure costs \$10 billion in direct and indirect medical costs each year in the U.S.[6]
- Smoke-free workplace laws save healthcare costs by helping smokers who want to quit. When Lexington went smoke-free, there were 16,500 fewer smokers, saving an estimated \$21 million per year in healthcare costs.[7]

Smoke-free laws are popular

- A recent poll conducted by a national public opinion firm found that 59% of likely voters in Kentucky were in favor of a statewide, smoke-free law vs. 39% who oppose such a law.[8]
- Republicans (60%), Democrats (59%), and Independents (55%) were all just as likely to support a statewide smoke-free law.

For more information, go to www.smokefreekentucky.org

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- 67% of voters (including 48% of smokers) believe the rights of customers to breathe clean air in restaurants and bars are more important than the rights of smokers to smoke or owners to allow smoking in these places.
- Thirty Kentucky communities have enacted laws or regulations restricting smoking. As of March 2011, *all workers* in 17 Kentucky communities (or 31.5% of Kentucky's population) were protected by *comprehensive* smoke-free laws or regulations.
- Local laws are popular and easily enforced. They are the backbone of a good state law. It takes the leadership of both local and state elected officials to protect all workers from secondhand smoke.

Kentucky House Bill 193 protects the rights of all non-smokers to breathe smoke-free air

- HB 193 covers all indoor workplaces and public places including restaurants and bars.
- HB 193 protects the authority of local governments to pass stronger smoke-free ordinances as they see fit.
- HB 193 ensures that Kentucky workers do not have to choose between their health and a paycheck.
- HB 193 is similar to laws in 23 other states.

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2. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*. 2006, Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease and Prevention and Promotion, Office of Smoking and Health: Atlanta, GA.
3. National Institutes of Health, *Health Effects of Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke: The Report of the California Environmental Protection Agency*, National Cancer Institute, Editor. 1999, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
4. Eriksen, M. and F. Chaloupka, *The economic impact of clean indoor air laws*. A Cancer Journal for Clinicians, 2007. **57**: p. 367-378.
5. Pyles, M.K., et al., *Economic impact of a smoke-free law in a tobacco-growing community*. Tobacco Control, 2007. **16**: p. 66-68.
6. Behan, D., M. Eriksen, and Y. Lin, *Economic effects of environmental tobacco smoke*. 2005, Society of Actuaries.
7. Hahn, E.J., et al., *Smoke-free laws and adult smoking prevalence*. Prev Med, 2008. **47**(2): p. 206-9.
8. Bolger, G., *Kentucky Statewide Survey*. 2010, Public Opinion Strategies.

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