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Smoke-Free Laws are Good for Business!

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

- The Surgeon General's 2006 Report on [*The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke*](#) examined numerous 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."
- A comprehensive review of all available studies on the economic impact of smoke-free workplace laws concluded that: "All of the best designed studies report no impact or a positive impact of smoke-free restaurant and bar laws on sales or employment." ([Tobacco Control](#), 2003).
- Smoke-free laws help lessen the economic toll that secondhand smoke already takes on our nation. According to an August 2005 [study by the Society of Actuaries](#), secondhand smoke costs our nation \$10 billion annually in health care and other costs.
- 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.
- The 2006 *Zagat Survey: America's Top Restaurants* of 115,000 Americans found that 58 percent of respondents said they would dine out the same amount if restaurants were smoke-free and 39 percent would dine out more. Only 3 percent said they would dine out less often. Regarding New York's smoke-free law, Zagat concluded, "The city's recent smoking ban, far from curbing restaurant traffic, has given it a major lift."
- 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."
- A study conducted by research economists at the University of Florida's Bureau of Economic and Business Research found that the state's voter-approved smoke-free law, which took effect July 1, 2003, has not hurt sales or employment in the hotel, restaurant or tourism industries.
- A [study released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) found that a comprehensive smoke-free policy in El Paso, TX did not affect restaurant and bar revenue in the year after it took effect in January 2002.
- Support for New York's smoke-free law has grown even among bar and restaurant owners. James McBratney, President of the Staten Island Restaurant and Tavern Association, was quoted in the [Feb. 6, 2005, issue of The New York Times](#) saying "I have to admit, I've seen no falloff in business in either establishment [restaurant or bar]." According to The Times, "He went on to describe what he once considered unimaginable: Customers actually seem to like it, and so does he."
- In Delaware, business remained steady one year after the state's Clean Indoor Air Act went into effect in November 2002. Data from the Delaware Alcohol Beverage Control Commission show that the number of restaurant, tavern, and taproom licenses increased in the year after the law took effect.