



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. As former Surgeon General Richard Carmona 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."
- Secondhand smoke contains more than [4,000 chemicals, including 69 that cause cancer](#), including arsenic, ammonia, formaldehyde, and polonium 210.
- According to the [Centers For Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), nearly 50,000 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. For example, in [New Jersey](#), the average level of indoor air pollution declined 91% in those venues that prohibited smoking as a result of the statewide smoke-free workplace law.
- 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).
- An examination of the impact of Ireland's smoke-free law on bar workers in Dublin found improvements in measured pulmonary function and significant reductions in self-reported irritant symptoms after the law went into effect. ([American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine](#), 2007).

✓ Good for Business

- 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."
- 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).
- The 2008 *Zagat Survey: America's Top Restaurants* of 132,000 Americans noted that, "The verdict on smoking is overwhelming with 77% of diners saying they'd eat out less if smoking were permitted in local restaurants, and only 2% saying they'd dine out more."
- 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.