

FACT SHEET

Clean Indoor Air / Smoke-Free Environments

According to tobacco industry documents, smoke-free environments (SFEs) encourage cessation:

- “Total prohibition of smoking in the workplace strongly affects industry volume. Smokers facing these restrictions consume 11% - 15% less than average and quit at a rate that is 84% higher than average.”¹
- Smoke-free laws result in an overall decline in the social acceptability of smoking.²

Health Effects of Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

- Secondhand smoke ranks third as a major preventable cause of death, behind only active smoking and alcohol-related causes.³
- Comparing the effects of active smoking and secondhand smoke, researchers found that chronic exposure to secondhand smoke is about 80% as harmful as smoking a pack of cigarettes per day.⁴

Economic Impact

- Multiple studies using objective data (such as sales tax receipts or employment data) have revealed that SFEs have either a neutral or a positive economic impact on restaurant and bar sales.⁵
- Studies conducted in New York City and Boston, both popular tourist destinations, have concluded that neither city experienced a decline in sales following adoption of their early ordinances limiting smoking in restaurants.⁶



Public Support for Smoke-Free Environments

- There are 11 states in the U.S. with state laws that require 100% smoke-free workplaces including restaurants and bars.⁷
- Public support for SFEs can be seen in the high compliance rates in places where smoke-free laws now exist, such as in New York which achieved a 97% compliance rate a year after its smoke-free law went into effect.⁸
- Around the country, 82% of 110,000 Americans polled for the 2005 Zagat Survey of restaurants support completely smoke-free restaurants.⁹

In Louisiana

- Louisiana, like many other states, supports the cause of smoke-free environments. According to a 2005 Louisiana poll conducted by Ed Renwick, 85% of Louisiana's citizens are concerned about the health effects of SHS and 76% (New Orleans 84%) favor a law to prohibit smoking in most public places, including restaurants.¹⁰

Sources:

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4. Barnoya J, Glantz SA *Circulation*. 2005; 111: 2684-2698. Cardiovascular effects of secondhand smoke: nearly as large as smoking
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7. Americans for Nonsmokers Rights, 2005
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