



Making the Case for a Smoke-Free Tennessee

Health benefits

A comprehensive, statewide clean indoor air law is smart for the health of our citizens and long-term economics of health insurance, particularly public health costs.

Healthier Tennesseans will be more productive in the workplace, in citizen life and will have lower health care costs.

Exposure to secondhand smoke is preventable. The tragedy is that it's causing illness and death that is unnecessary and costly. Clean indoor air is the smartest solution.

Secondhand smoke is the third most preventable cause of death in the United States, responsible for causing 35,000 to 45,000 deaths each year from heart disease and 3,000 more deaths from lung cancer. In Tennessee alone, the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids estimates that secondhand smoke causes between 980 and 1,740 deaths.

Government has a duty to protect the public's health. Exposure to second-hand smoke causes many of the same serious illnesses for nonsmokers as active smoking causes for smokers, including numerous types of cancer, heart disease and stroke.

Almost three-quarters of Tennessee adults do not smoke. This issue is not about smokers' rights versus nonsmokers' rights. It is a health issue. Smokers do not have the right to harm those who chose not to smoke.

There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Like asbestos, it is classified by the Environmental Protection Agency as a Class A carcinogen. Additionally, there are over 4,000 toxic chemicals in secondhand smoke.

Clean indoor air makes an immediate difference. According to Medical Journals, there was a 40 percent reduction in heart attacks in Helena, Montana during the first six months the Helena smoke-free ordinance was in effect.

Breathing second-hand smoke is a known cause of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Babies whose mothers are around second-hand smoke are more likely to have a lower birth weight and underdeveloped lungs.

Studies show that children around second-hand smoke get sick more often. They are more susceptible to bronchitis, pneumonia, wheezing, coughing, and asthma.

Surgeon General's Recommendations

A 2006 report from the Surgeon General reinforces years of scientifically irrefutable evidence on the health hazards of secondhand smoke and urges comprehensive smoke-free policies.

The Surgeon General says that nonsmokers exposed to secondhand smoke increase their risk of developing heart disease by 25 to 30 percent and lung cancer by 20 to 30 percent.

Brief exposure can cause immediate harm. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, the only way to protect nonsmokers from the dangerous chemicals in secondhand smoke is to eliminate smoking indoors.

The Surgeon General's report also states that ventilation systems are ineffective at reducing the harm caused by the emission of cigarette smoke in restaurants and bars.

Economic benefits of tobacco policy

Use of tobacco by Tennessee smokers – not counting the effects from secondhand smoke – adds up to \$2.16 billion in health care costs every year, including \$680 million to our Medicaid program. Such are the effects of cancers, heart disease, stroke and other illnesses brought on by smoking. Smoking costs Tennessee another \$2.74 billion in lost productivity every year. [According to the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids]

Independent studies conducted across the country have shown smoke-free laws have no negative economic impact on businesses, including restaurants. In many cases, profits increase.

Public support

The majority of Tennesseans support smoke-free worksites. A poll conducted in October 2006 found that 73 percent of Tennessee voters indicated they strongly or somewhat supported a smoke-free law that would make all workplaces, including restaurants and bars, in Tennessee smoke-free.* Support for clean indoor air is genuine and widespread.

Worker rights

No one should have to choose between their personal livelihood and their health. All workers have the right to breathe clean air.

According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, bar and restaurant workers are 1½ to 2 times more likely to die of lung cancer than they would if bars and restaurants were 100 percent smoke-free.

At this moment, there are 21 states with smoke-free laws. Elected officials are currently considering statewide smoke-free policies in several other states as well.**

<u>STATE</u>	<u>ENACTED</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ENACTED</u>
California	1994	Vermont	2005
Utah	1994	North Dakota	2005
South Dakota	2002	Washington	2005
Delaware	2002	Montana	2005
Florida	2002	New Jersey	2006
New York	2003	Colorado	2006
Connecticut	2003	Hawaii	2006
Maine	2003	Arkansas	2006
Idaho	2004	Ohio	2006
Rhode Island	2004	Louisiana	2007
Massachusetts	2004	Arizona	May 1, 2007

*The statewide poll was conducted by Little Rock-based Opinion Research Associates with a random sample of 600 registered likely Tennessee voters. The poll was conducted October 10-12 and 16-17, 2006 and has a margin of error of +/- 4.1 percentage points and a confidence level of 95 percent.

** Georgia enacted Clean Indoor Air legislation in 2004, but is not recognized as a state with a comprehensive policy by Americans for Non-Smokers Rights (ANR)