



FACT SHEET ON SECOND HAND SMOKE AND BUSINESS

Smokefree policy is good for workers, and good for business!

- Almost every smokefree policy campaign includes a discussion on the economic impact of smokefree laws.
- Workers exposed to second hand smoke (SHS) at work:
 1. Suffer a 25-50% higher risk of heart attack, and higher rates of death from heart disease.ⁱ
 2. Have 3 times the risk of lung cancer, and 2.5 times the risk of heart disease than workers in other occupations.ⁱⁱ
- Workers exposed to SHS at work, who subsequently developed tobacco-related diseases, have successfully sued their employers for failing to provide a safe workplace.
- Second hand smoke cannot be safely reduced even by high rates of ventilation. Air filters do not remove the carcinogens and other toxins in smoke.^{iii, iv}
- The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that smokefree restaurants can expect to save about \$190/1000 sq. feet each year in lower cleaning and maintenance costs.^v
- Merle Norman Cosmetics Company in Los Angeles voluntarily went smokefree and saved \$13,500 in the first year in reduced housekeeping costs.^{vi}
- Ensuring completely smoke-free workplaces is sound economic policy and affords the best protection for employees' health and safety.^{vii}
- Smokefree air is also very popular with the public. According to a national Zagat Survey of more than 110,000 restaurant patrons in the United States, 4 out of 5 said that all restaurants should be smokefree, 32% would go out to eat more often if restaurants were smokefree (only 3% said they would eat out less). In California, 70% of respondents said they would eat out less if smoking were re-allowed in restaurants.

ⁱ Pitsavos C, et al., "Association between exposure to environmental tobacco smoke and the development of acute coronary syndromes: the CARDIO2000 case-control study," *Tobacco Control* 11(3): 220-255, September 2002.

ⁱⁱ Cofer-Wildsmith, Marina, "Smoke-free laws are good for business," *Washington Business Magazine*, March/April 2004.

ⁱⁱⁱ Environmental Protection Agency, "indoor air facts no. 5: environmental tobacco smoke," *Washington, D.C.: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*, June 1989.

^{iv} Repace and Associates

^v [n.a.], "The dollars (and sense) benefits of having a smoke-free workplace," *Michigan Department of Community Health*, 2000.

^{vi} American Lung Association of Contra Costa/Solano, "Toward a smokefree workplace," *Pleasant Hill, CA: American Lung Association of Contra Costa/Solano*, [no date].

^{vii} Glantz SA and Smith L, The effect of ordinances requiring smokefree restaurants on restaurant sales in the United States. *American Journal of Public Health*, 87:1687-1693, 1997.