



Secondhand Smoke in Bars & Restaurants

Bar & restaurant workers exposed to secondhand smoke:

- Restaurant and bar workers have 3 to 6 times more exposure to secondhand smoke than other workers.¹
- Food service workers are nearly 2.5 times more likely than other workers to report someone smoking in their work areas, even when smoking is prohibited.²
- 25% of the 5.5 million food service workers in the U.S. are between the ages of 15 and 19, and this occupational group has consistently reported one of the lowest rates of smoke-free workplace policies.³
- Secondhand smoke exposure for restaurant workers is estimated to be 1.6-2.0 times higher than for office workers and at least 1.5 times higher than for persons who live with a smoker.⁴
- For bar workers, secondhand smoke exposure is estimated to be 4-6 times higher than for office workers, and at least 4-5 times higher than for persons exposed to secondhand smoke in homes.⁴
- There is an excess lung cancer risk of 50% for food-service workers compared to the risk among the general population.⁴
- The CDC is warning people at risk of heart disease to avoid all buildings and gathering places that allow indoor smoking.⁵

Economic impact of smoke-free ordinances for bars and restaurants:

- Over 60 cities and counties with smoke-free restaurant ordinances have been studied for economic impact. All studies, based on sales tax data, show no negative economic impact.⁶
- The National Restaurant Association polls show that if a restaurant goes smoke-free, 56% would eat at the restaurant more often and only 26% would eat there less often.⁷
- 72% of Minneapolis voters favor a city law prohibiting smoking in all workplaces, including bars and restaurants.⁸
- Bars and restaurants would likely see an increase in business if they implement smoke-free policies.⁹

1 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1996.

2 Shopland D, et al. State-specific trends in smoke-free workplace policy coverage: the current population survey tobacco use supplement, 1993-1999. *J Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, 43 (8): 680-86, 2001.

3 Gerlach K, et al. Workplace smoking policies in the U.S.: Results from a national survey of over 100,000 workers. *Tobacco Control*, 6:1999-206, 1997.

4 Siegel M. Involuntary smoking in the restaurant workplace: a review of employee exposure and health effects. *JAMA*, 270(4): 490-93, 1993.

5 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2004

6 Stanton Glantz, 1999.

7 Tobacco-Free Coalition. 1999.

8 The Mellman Group, 2004.

9 *J Public Health Management and Practice*, 1999.