

## **SMOKE-FREE LAWS DON'T HARM BARS AND RESTAURANTS**



# **NATIONAL AND LOCAL STUDIES SHOW SMOKE-FREE LAWS HAVE NO ADVERSE IMPACT ON BUSINESSES**

An August 2013 study published in the journal *Preventing Chronic Disease* is the latest comprehensive study to show that smoke-free laws do not have an adverse economic impact on restaurants or bars. The study, one of the largest to date on this issue, analyzed employment data from 216 smoke-free cities and counties across nine states including Kentucky.<sup>1</sup>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Community Preventive Services Task Force analyzed two reviews of over 170 studies, concluding that "Smoke-free policies did not have an adverse economic impact on the business activity of restaurants, bars, or establishments catering to tourists; some studies found a small positive effect of these policies."<sup>2</sup>

## **LOCAL DATA SUPPORTS THE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE**

### *LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY*

When Lexington went smoke-free, restaurant employment increased and bar employment stayed the same. The smoke-free law did not impact bar and restaurant openings or closings and did not impact payroll withholding taxes in restaurants or bars.<sup>3</sup>

### *NORTHERN KENTUCKY*

After Ohio passed a statewide smoke-free law, smoke-free opponents claimed that Northern Kentucky establishments experienced an economic boom. In fact, a study concluded this claim was false and found that business in border counties did not change in Kentucky or Ohio.<sup>4</sup>

### *RURAL AND URBAN COMMUNITIES IN KENTUCKY*

There is no evidence that economies in Kentucky counties were affected in any way from the implementation of local smoke-free laws. Furthermore, there is no evidence that either rural or urban counties experienced a loss of economic activity following smoke-free legislation (p.3).<sup>5</sup>

## **SMOKE-FREE MAY BENEFIT KENTUCKY RESTAURANTS AND BARS**

- <sup>1</sup> Loomis BR, Shafer PR, van Hasselt M., “The Economic Impact of Smoke-Free Laws on Restaurants and Bars in 9 States,” Preventing Chronic Disease 2013; 10:120327. [http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2013/12\\_0327.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2013/12_0327.htm)
- <sup>2</sup> Guide to Community Preventive Services. “Reducing tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure: smoke-free policies,” <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/tobacco/smokefreepolicies.html>. Accessed 6/2/2014
- <sup>3</sup> Pyles M, Mullineaux D, Okoli C, Hahn E. Economic impact of a smoke-free law in a tobacco-growing community. Tobacco Control, 2007; 16(1):66-68.
- <sup>4</sup> Pyles MK, Hahn EJ. Economic effects of Ohio’s smoke-free law on Kentucky and Ohio border counties. Tob Control. Jan 2011; 20(1): 73-76.
- <sup>5</sup> Pyles MK, Hahn EJ. Economic Effects of Smoke-free Laws on Rural and Urban Counties in Kentucky and Ohio. Nicotine Tob Res. Jun 20 2011.

Adapted with permission from, “Economics and Smoke-free Laws,” Kentucky Center for Smoke-free Policy, November, 2011, <http://tinyurl.com/64mt2gg>.