

SMOKE
FREE
KENTUCKY



EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO BREATHE SMOKE-FREE AIR

SMOKE-FREE LAWS ARE GOOD FOR HEALTH

Tobacco smoke is a deadly mix of more than 7,000 chemicals, almost 70 of which cause cancer. Secondhand smoke is a proven cause of disease and death in nonsmokers, and there is no safe level of exposure. Workers exposed to secondhand smoke increase their risk of developing lung cancer by about 20-30%. Kentucky leads the nation in lung cancer and ranks among the highest in several chronic diseases. The risk for cancer, stroke, heart disease, and asthma attacks can be reduced by a law that simply asks smokers to step outside.

SMOKE-FREE LAWS ARE GOOD FOR BUSINESS AND SAVE MONEY

The health problems caused by tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure come with a price tag. Healthcare costs directly attributed to tobacco use total \$1.92 billion a year in Kentucky. Add that to the \$2.79 billion in lost productivity due to early deaths from smoking and the cost is a staggering \$4.7 billion every year. Specifically, secondhand smoke exposure costs the U.S. about \$5 billion a year in direct medical costs. Kentucky's annual share of that cost is estimated to be at least \$100 million. Eliminating secondhand smoke in the workplace would save healthcare costs, cleaning and maintenance costs, and improve worker productivity. Additionally, numerous studies show that smoke-free laws have a positive or neutral impact on bar and restaurant business.

SMOKE-FREE LAWS ARE POPULAR

The best evidence of the popularity of smoke-free policy is the number of states, local communities, and entire countries that have smoke-free workplace laws. Comprehensive smoke-free laws that cover all indoor workplaces, including restaurants and bars, have been passed in 24 states and 24 Kentucky communities. A recent poll showed that 66% of Kentuckians support a comprehensive, statewide, smoke-free law while only 29% oppose it. More than 500 businesses and organizations in Kentucky have signed a resolution of support for a smoke-free Kentucky. Many prominent health and business leaders have also demonstrated support.

SUPPORT SMOKE-FREE LAWS THAT PROTECT WORKERS AND PATRONS