

Smoke-free Policies: A Health Win



Secondhand smoke (SHS) is a killer. The science is not in dispute any longer. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention reports that SHS "causes lung cancer, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases in nonsmoking adults and children." (2011)

"SHS is a serious health hazard that causes premature death & disease in children and non-smoking adults." (US Surgeon General, 2006)

7,896 deaths in Alabama are caused by smoking-related diseases. 820 Alabama deaths are caused by SHS exposure-ALL PREVENTABLE!

*2010: U.S. Surgeon General Regina Benjamin from Alabama states "The chemicals in tobacco smoke reach your lungs quickly every time you inhale causing damage immediately...even the smallest amount of tobacco smoke can damage your DNA and lead to cancer."

"Smoke-free laws reduce SHS exposure and related health problems among non-smokers." (CDC, 2011)

Smoke-free laws reduce the risk of heart disease, even brief exposure to SHS can lead to heart attacks (Institute of Medicine, 2009).

All Alabamians have the right to breathe smoke-free air and to work, learn and recreate in environments that don't endanger their health!

Currently in Alabama there are 34 comprehensive smoke-free ordinances that protect citizens from SHS in one or all workplaces, restaurants, and bars.

It is time for our legislators to protect the 85% of Alabamians not covered by comprehensive ordinances the 3rd leading cause of preventable death in the U.S. This includes all who live in unincorporated areas that must rely on a state law to protect them from SHS.

\$1 Per Pack Excise Tax Increase: A Health and Budget Win

Alabama collects 42 ½ cents per cigarette pack in excise taxes to offset an estimated \$8.97 per pack in health costs and productivity losses!

Smoking Prevention Benefits:

- 73,200 Alabama kids will not become addicted adult smokers
- 30,700 Alabamians will be saved from premature smoking-caused death

Revenue Generated for Alabama:

- \$213.3 million in revenue generated annually even with reduced consumption
- \$25.7 million in health savings from fewer heart attacks, strokes and pregnancy complications over a 5 year period

*Only 5 other states have lower cigarette tax than us: Georgia, Louisiana, Virginia, Missouri, & South Carolina
*Mississippi, Tennessee and Florida have already experienced the health and budget benefits of a cigarette excise tax increase.

Strong Tobacco Retailer Licensing Law:
Requiring Tobacco Retailer Fees for permits and licenses

A Win for Health

- Help enforce tobacco control laws
- Reduce access of tobacco to children

A Win for the Budget

The 2011 the Alabama Tobacco non-compliance rate of retailers selling tobacco products to minors is 7.6%. There is no requirement for tobacco retailer employees to attend the Responsible Vendor program. Currently, in Alabama there is no permit fee required when obtaining a permit.

Requiring tobacco retailers to attend a Responsible Vendor program, pay a fee for the permit, and require a yearly license fee could support increased compliance checks and sustain the tobacco prevention and control program.

SMOKE-FREE POLICIES

A Win for Alabama



www.tobaccofreealabama.net



Smoke-free Policies: A Political Win



2011 Jefferson County Poll

- 76% of voters support smoke-free workplace laws covering all offices, restaurants, and bars

Support for smoke-free workplaces cuts across party lines, from

- 76% of Republicans
- 79% of Democrats

2008 American Cancer Society Survey of Alabama Voters

- *78% support smoke-free workplace laws
- *79% hold government responsible for protecting the public's health
- *81% are likely to vote in the next election

Across the U.S., 29 states have already passed laws covering restaurants, bars, and in most cases other work sites.

Key restaurant leader supports smoke-free law:

"The trend toward non-smoking in all public places, including restaurants, continues to grow. The Alabama Restaurant Association believes it is time to support a statewide smoke-free environment in all restaurants, bars & private clubs."

Lawrence M. Fidel, President,
Alabama Restaurant Association, 2011

Smoke-free Policies protect workers for Alabama's 2nd largest employer:
The Hospitality Industry

Non-smoking hospitality workers exposed to SHS are:

- 30% more at risk for heart disease
- 50% more likely to develop lung cancer than white collar workers

Smoke-free Policies: A Business Win

"Smoke-free laws can protect the lives and health of workers without harming business."
(U.S. Surgeon General, 2006)

Positive effect on employee productivity and safety:

- Increases employee productivity
Smoke breaks can average 4 hr./wk./employee
- Reduces employee absenteeism
- Smokers are absent 7-10 more days/yr. than non-smokers
- Smokers have 2x the number of work-related accidents

Lowers Business Costs:

- *Reduces employer liability for exposed workers
Lower health care & health insurance costs
- *Lowers fire and property insurance costs
- *Reduces maintenance & cleaning expenses from smoke damage

A 2010 study of smoke-free laws across the U.S. found no clear evidence of a negative economic impact on restaurants and bars, and in some cases business improved.
(American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Dr. E.J. Hahn)

A 2006 Auburn University Study of Athens, Dothan, Eufaula, and Prattville found no negative effect of smoke-free ordinances on revenue and employment levels.

Opelika showed an increase in restaurant revenue receipts in the year (2007) following their smoke-free ordinance.



Smoke-free Policies: A Budget Win for Alabama



SHS exposure in Alabama results in \$166 million in medical and productivity costs each year.
(2011 Burden of Tobacco Report)

Dr. Donald Williamson, ADPH State Health Officer states that smoke-free laws improve worker's health and reduce the number of smokers.

In Starkville & Hattiesburg Mississippi, heart attack admissions dropped by 27.7% and 13.4% respectively in the 6 months after the 2006 smoke-free laws were passed.

Studies show that smoke-free policies:

- *Increase the number of quit attempts
- *Reduce tobacco consumption

A decrease in the number of Alabama smokers would help to lower tobacco-related state budget costs.

Alabama's annual tobacco-related costs:

- \$1.66 billion in direct health care expenditures
- \$3.78 billion in smoking-caused productivity losses
- \$238 million in Medicaid health expenditures

The Alabama Department of Public Health Tobacco Prevention & Control Branch provides:

- Free training & assistance to implement smoke-free workplace
- Free employee cessation counseling and nicotine patches
- Smoke-free compliance checks by Area Coordinators