STATE
State Tobacco Activities Tracking & Evaluation System

State Smoke-free Indoor Air Fact Sheet

There is no safe level of secondhand smoke exposure

In the United States, cigarette smoking and the exposure to secondhand smoke causes approximately 443,000 deaths each year.[1,2,3] According to the U.S. Surgeon General, no amount of exposure to secondhand smoke is safe.[1] Secondhand smoke increases the risk of acute myocardial infarction (AMI) or heart attacks, heart disease, lung cancer, and other cancers up to 31% in nonsmoking adults.[4,5] Secondhand smoke also causes sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory infections, middle ear disease, and more frequent and severe asthma attacks in children.[3] More than 50% of American children 3 to 11 years of age (19 million children) are exposed to secondhand smoke.[6] The effects of secondhand smoke may be particularly more hazardous for children because of their smaller airways and the need to breathe more quickly, taking in 3 to 4 times as much air, therefore, potentially more secondhand smoke relative to their body weights than adults.[7] Approximately 88 million nonsmoking Americans continue to be exposed to secondhand smoking in homes, vehicles, workplaces, and public places.[3] Even a brief exposure to secondhand smoke could trigger a heart attack.[4] Employees and patrons of businesses in separately enclosed or ventilated smoking areas are exposed to especially high levels of secondhand smoke.[1,8] Smoke-free policies, including prohibiting smoking anywhere inside a home (i.e., having a smoke-free home rule), are the most effective way to provide protection from exposure to secondhand smoke.[9] Eliminating smoking in indoor spaces is the only way to fully protect nonsmokers from exposure to secondhand smoke.[1,4] Separating smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the air, and ventilating buildings are not effective protections against secondhand smoke.[1,8] In a recent study conducted by the Institute of Medicine, on behalf of the CDC, the Committee on Secondhand Smoke Exposure and Acute Coronary Events reported that smoking bans are effective at reducing the health risks to nonsmokers associated with exposure to secondhand smoke.[4]

In addition to protecting people from secondhand smoke, smoke-free policies are also helping to decrease smoking rates.[4,10] Limits on workplace smoking can lead to a decrease in total cigarette consumption rates, and adolescents who work in smoke-free workplaces are less likely to smoke than those who work where smoking is permitted.[6,11] It has been shown that communities who enact comprehensive smoke-free laws see up to a 17% reduction in hospital heart attack admissions.[12] Smoke-free laws and policies have a high level of public support and compliance, and studies have shown they do not negatively affect sales or employment in the hospitality industry.[13,14] Smoking-related diseases result in $96 billion in health care costs annually and the states that have implemented smoking restrictions have significantly improved the health of their citizens by reducing smoking rates, thereby decreasing smoking-related diseases, deaths, and health care costs.[15]

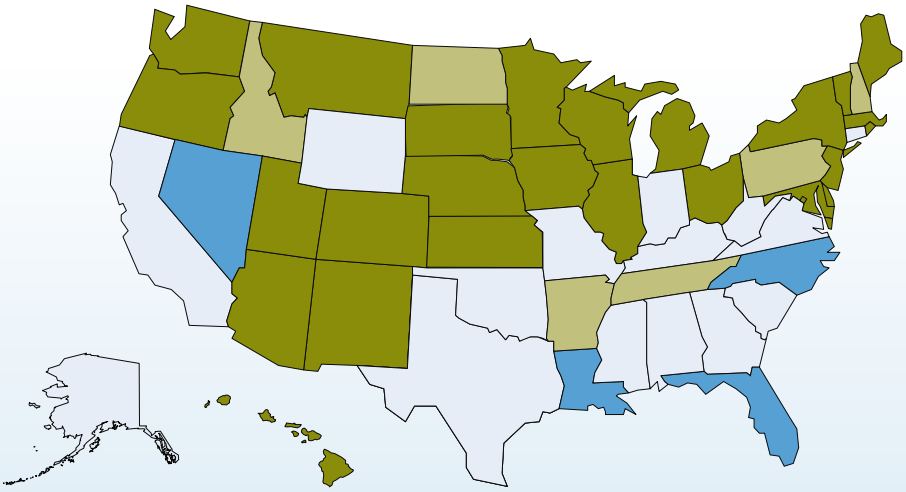
What states are doing to reduce secondhand smoke

Some states allow some locations to provide separate spaces for smokers and nonsmokers, such as tobacco manufacturing facilities, retail tobacco stores, outdoor seating areas of bars and restaurants, rooms in a hotel designated as "smoking rooms," facilities owned by fraternal groups or other private membership clubs, casinos and racetracks, and private homes. However, according to the Surgeon General, only 100% smoke-free indoor air effectively protects the public's health.[1] States have enacted policies to eliminate smoking in a number of locations, including bars, restaurants, and worksites. As of June 30, 2011, twenty-six states prohibit smoking in bars and thirty-two states prohibit smoking in restaurants. Thirty-three states have 100% smoke-free indoor air laws for worksites. Idaho, Mississippi, and North Carolina prohibit smoking in government worksites but not in private worksites.

As of June 30, 2011, twenty-five states (Arizona, Colorado,

States with 100% Smoke-Free Indoor Air Laws for Bars, Restaurants, and Worksites*

(n=51, as of June 30, 2011)



- No law, designated areas, or separate ventilation law n=15
- 100% Smokefree for One location n=6
- 100% Smokefree for Two locations n=4
- 100% Smokefree for Three locations n=26

*To receive credit for a worksite location ban, smoking must be prohibited in both government and private worksites (see chart).

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National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Office of Smoking and Health

Smokefree Indoor Air – Bars, Restaurants, Private Work sites and Government Worksites As of June 30, 2011				
States	Bars	Restaurants	Private Worksites	Government Worksites
Alabama	None	None	Designated Areas	Designated Areas
Alaska	No Provision	Designated Areas	No Provision	Designated Areas
Arizona	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
Arkansas	None	Designated Areas	Banned	Banned
California	Separate Ventilated Areas	Separate Ventilated Areas	Separate Ventilated Areas	Separate Ventilated Areas
Colorado	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
Connecticut	Separate Ventilated Areas	Separate Ventilated Areas	Separate Ventilated Areas	Separate Ventilated Areas
Delaware	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
District of Columbia	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
Florida	None	Banned	Banned	Banned
Georgia	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Separate Ventilated Areas
Hawaii	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
Idaho	None	Banned	Designated Areas	Banned
Illinois	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
Indiana	No Provision	None	No Provision	Designated Areas
Iowa	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
Kansas	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
Kentucky	No Provision	No Provision	No Provision	No Provision
Louisiana	None	Banned	Banned	Banned
Maine	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
Maryland	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
Massachusetts	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
Michigan	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
Minnesota	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
Mississippi	No Provision	No Provision	No Provision	Banned
Missouri	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas
Montana	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
Nebraska	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
Nevada	None	Banned	Banned	Banned
New Hampshire	No Provision	Banned	Designated Areas	Designated Areas
New Jersey	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
New Mexico	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
New York	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
North Carolina	Banned	Banned	No Provision	Banned
North Dakota	None	Designated Areas	Banned	Banned
Ohio	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
Oklahoma	None	Separate Ventilated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas
Oregon	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
Pennsylvania	None	Separate Ventilated Areas	Banned	Banned
Rhode Island	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
South Carolina	No Provision	No Provision	No Provision	Designated Areas
South Dakota	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
Tennessee	None	Designated Areas	Banned	Banned
Texas	No Provision	No Provision	No Provision	No Provision
Utah	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
Vermont	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
Virginia	Separate Ventilated Areas	Separate Ventilated Areas	No Provision	Designated Areas
Washington	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
West Virginia	No Provision	No Provision	No Provision	No Provision
Wisconsin	Banned	Banned	Banned	Banned
Wyoming	No Provision	No Provision	No Provision	Separate Ventilated Areas

Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin) and the District of Columbia have 100% smoke-free indoor air laws for bars, restaurants, and worksites.

Several states enacted smoke-free indoor air laws in 2010. For example, Kansas, Michigan, South Dakota, and Wisconsin are now smoke-free in all three locations bringing the total of states with 100% smoke-free air workplace laws to twenty-five states and the District of Columbia. A new North Carolina law now prohibits smoking in bars and restaurants but still not in all workplaces.

Opportunities for greater protection from secondhand smoke

Although the number of 100% smoke-free air laws has increased among states over time, there are still opportunities for greater protection from secondhand smoke.[16] People can make their homes and vehicles smoke-free, and states can work toward making all public places and workplaces smoke-free. Twenty-five states do not yet have 100% smoke-free indoor air laws in all bars, restaurants, and worksites.

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The STATE System contains data synthesized from state-level statutory laws. It does not contain state-level regulations; measures implemented by counties, cities, or other localities; opinions of Attorneys General; or relevant case law decisions for tobacco control topics other than preemption; all of which may vary significantly from the laws reported in the database, fact sheets, and publications.