

Protecting Hoosiers from Secondhand Smoke

Each year in the United States, an estimated 50,000 deaths are attributable to secondhand smoke breathed by nonsmokers. Of these deaths, 3,000 are due to lung cancer, 46,000 due to heart disease and approximately 430 to sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) each year. An estimated 1,200 people in Indiana die prematurely each year due to secondhand smoke exposure.

The U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that:

- Smoke-free workplace policies are the only effective way to eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke in workplace.
- Separating smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the air, and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate exposure.
- Blue collar and service employees are less likely than white-collar indoor workers to be covered by smoke-free policies.
- Workplace smoking restrictions lead to less smoking among workers.

Indiana is making progress but is lagging behind the rest of the U.S. Currently, 42 communities (Including the Indianapolis International Airport) have passed local smoke-free air policies. Fifteen communities have passed a smoke-free law that includes workplaces, restaurants, and bars and nineteen communities have passed a smoke-free law that included workplaces and restaurants. Just over 37 percent (37.8%) of Indiana residents are covered by a smoke-free air law.



Only 15 communities in Indiana (Delaware Co., Hancock Co., Monroe Co., Bloomington, Cumberland, Elkhart, Fort Wayne, Franklin, Greencastle, Plainfield, Terre Haute, West Lafayette, Vanderburgh Co., Evansville, and Zionsville) have passed comprehensive smoke-free air ordinances which cover all work places, including bars, ensuring all workers are protected from secondhand smoke. These 15 comprehensive ordinances only cover 15.1% of all residents in Indiana.

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Smoke free states and cities worldwide

- Across the U.S., there are currently over 21,800 municipalities with local laws in effect that restrict where smoking is allowed. These include some of the largest cities, such as New York City, Los Angeles, San Diego, Dallas, San Francisco, and Boston.
- Twenty-three states have passed comprehensive state-wide smoke free air laws, which protect all workers equally: Arizona, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin.
- Entire countries that are smoke free include Ireland, France, Hong Kong, Norway, Sweden, New Zealand, Malta, Uganda, Bhutan, Italy, Quebec, Canada, Scotland, Bermuda, and Spain, among others.

Hospitals, Health Care Centers, and Behavioral Health Treatment Centers

- Throughout Indiana, 144 hospitals have a tobacco-free campus policy. Of the 35 critical access hospitals, 32 have implemented a tobacco-free policy.
- Forty (40) mental health and substance abuse treatment facilities have a system-wide tobacco free policy.

University and College Campuses

- Currently 50 Indiana college and university campuses are tobacco-free. This includes the 9 campuses that make up the Indiana University system, most Ivy Tech campuses around the state, and Purdue University's Calumet and North Central campuses.

School Districts

- Fifty-eight (58) counties have all tobacco-free schools districts providing 80% of our youth with protection from secondhand smoke at school.

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