

Fort Wayne Air Monitoring Study, May-June 2007

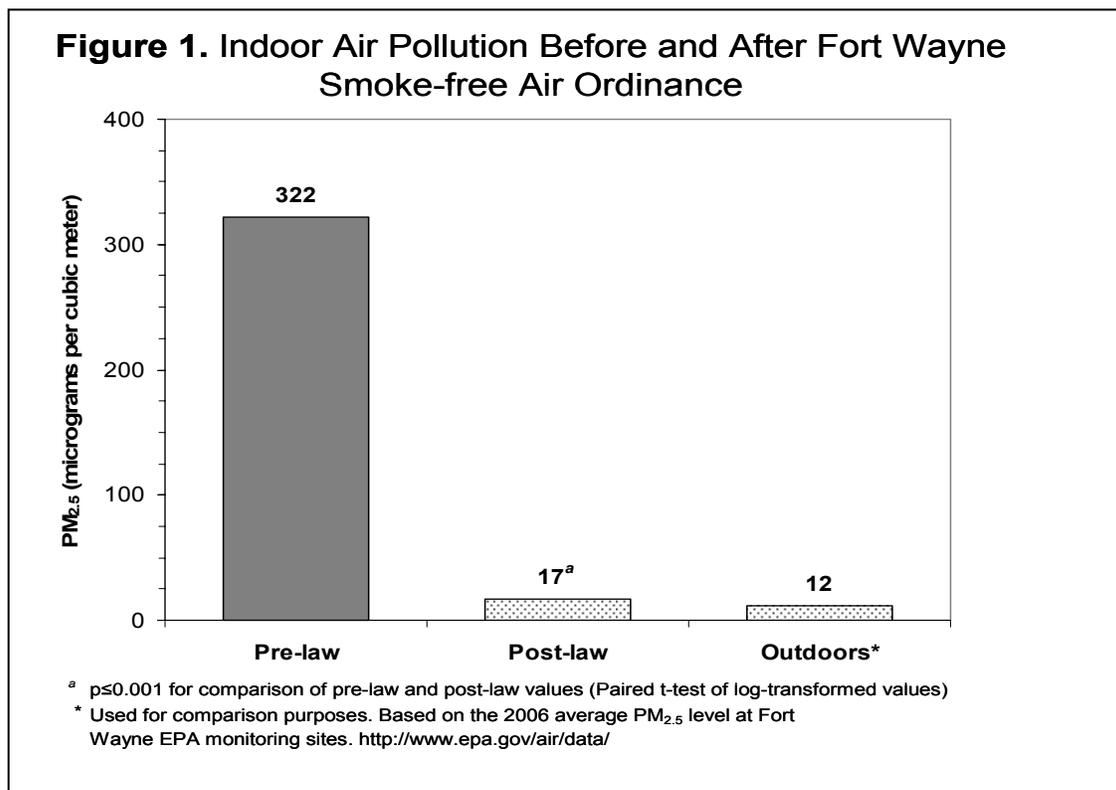
Secondhand smoke (SHS) is a known human carcinogenⁱ, and is responsible for an estimated 50,000 deaths and other illnesses each yearⁱⁱ. Secondhand smoke exposure remains a major public health concern, although it is entirely preventable^{iii,iv}.

Policies requiring smoke free environments are the most effective method for reducing secondhand smoke exposure in public places^v. Currently, 26 states have enacted smoke free workplace laws, which represent approximately 60% of the U.S. population^{vi}.

In order to protect the public's health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set limits of 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as the average annual level of $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ exposure and 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ 24-hour exposure. $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ is the concentration of particulate matter in the air smaller than 2.5 microns in diameter. Particles of this size are released in significant amounts from burning cigarettes and are easily inhaled deep into the lungs.

The study assessed indoor air quality in 14 Fort Wayne hospitality venues including bars, restaurants, bowling alleys and pool halls, both before and after the implementation of the new Fort Wayne smoke-free air law on June 1, 2007.

Venues were selected to represent highly populated but geographically different areas of Indiana with various types of clean indoor air legislation in effect. Within Fort Wayne, efforts were made to visit a minimum of 6 hospitality venues in at least two popular entertainment districts.

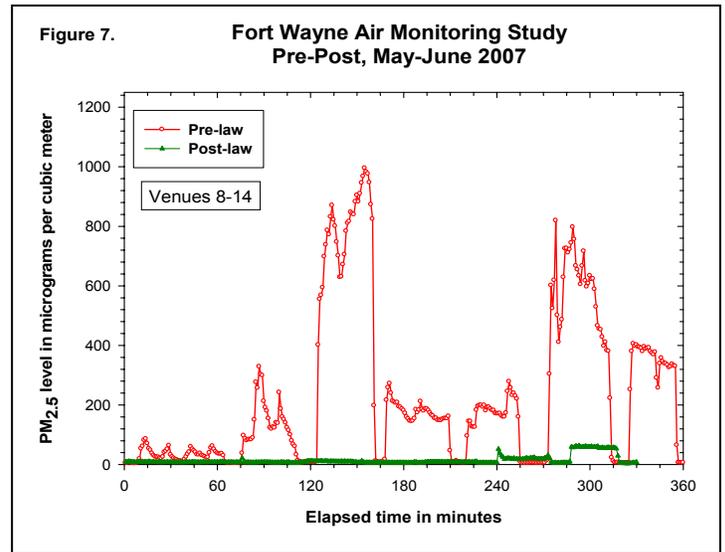
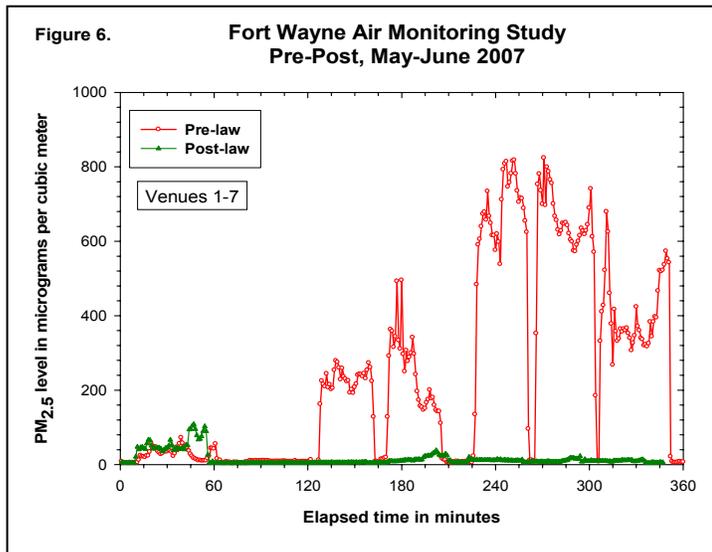


Study Highlights

- The average level of fine particle indoor air pollution in venues that went smoke free declined 94% after the Fort Wayne smoke free workplace ordinance went into effect.
- Compliance with the law in the fourteen places visited was 100%. There was no smoking observed in any location after the law went into effect.
- Before the law, employees in sampled locations were exposed to unhealthy air according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. They now work in environments with safe levels of fine particle air pollution.

Before implementation of the Fort Wayne smoke-free air ordinance, locations allowing indoor smoking were significantly more polluted than indoor smoke-free sites and than outdoor air in Fort Wayne, with levels of pollution in excess of EPA standards. As a result of the Fort Wayne ordinance, air quality is dramatically improved for workers and patrons of those hospitality venues where indoor smoking became prohibited.

Graphs showing indoor air pollution levels before and after June 1, 2007 and the implementation of the smoke free workplace law.



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- CDC. Annual smoking-attributable mortality, years of potential life lost, and economic costs – United States, 1995-1999; MMWR 2002;51(14):300-320.
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- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Reducing tobacco use: a report of the Surgeon General. Washington, D.C.: US Government Printing Office, 2000.
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