

WHY SMOKEFREE?

THE SCIENCE IS CLEAR:

There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.¹ Secondhand smoke contains a toxic mixture of over 250 chemicals, 69 of which are known to cause cancer.² Breathing secondhand smoke for a short period of time can have immediate effects, like breathing difficulties, eye irritation, headaches, nausea, and asthma attacks.³ We should have the freedom to go out and enjoy our night without dealing with toxic smoke.

BETTER FOR WORKERS' HEALTH

- Everyone has the right to earn a living in a safe environment. Unfortunately, not everybody in Oklahoma enjoys this right. Although some indoor workplaces are smokefree by law, smoking is still allowed in bars and nightclubs. People who work in bars and clubs where smoking is allowed are exposed to secondhand smoke everyday when they work. This is harmful and unsafe.⁴
- Just being around secondhand smoke for 30 minutes can INCREASE your risk of a heart attack.^{5,6,7} Imagine the damage that secondhand smoke does to someone who is around it ALL the time. For people who work in bars and clubs where smoking is allowed, they are forced to breathe secondhand smoke day, after day, after day.
- For a bar or nightclub employee with asthma, secondhand smoke could trigger a severe asthma attack in less than the time it takes him or her to refill your drink.^{8,9}
- Employees who are exposed to secondhand smoke in the workplace are 20-30% more likely to get lung cancer. The longer the exposure, the higher the risk.¹⁰

BETTER FOR BUSINESS

- The evidence is clear and consistent: going smokefree does NOT hurt bar business. Economic studies continue to show that it doesn't harm bar patronage, employment, or profits. In fact, sometimes it improves employment and revenue.^{11,12,13,14}
- A smokefree work environment improves worker health and productivity. Going smokefree quickly improves the health of bar workers, including reducing respiratory problems (like coughing and shortness of breath), eye and throat irritations, runny noses, and sneezing.^{15,16,17}
- A smokefree environment means lower maintenance costs. Furniture, flooring, and decorations last longer because they are not destroyed by cigarette burns, nicotine residue, and cigarette odor. Cleaning costs also decrease when smoke, ashes, and cigarette butts are eliminated.¹⁸
- Smokefree bars and clubs protect employees and patrons from secondhand smoke. By establishing a smokefree environment, bars in Oklahoma would promote a healthy work environment where patrons can also enjoy their time out without compromising their health.
- More than 7 out of 10 (73.9%) Oklahomans do not smoke.¹⁹ Catering to the majority is a good business decision.

CITATIONS

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