

Smoke-Free Kentucky: Protecting Everyone's Right to Breathe Smoke-Free Air

- Secondhand smoke contains more than 250 chemicals, gases, and poisons known to be toxic or cause cancer. Some of these dangerous chemicals are: formaldehyde, arsenic, cyanide and carbon monoxide.¹
- Secondhand smoke causes at least 49,000 deaths from heart disease and lung cancer.¹
- Secondhand smoke is a serious health hazard, not just an annoyance. It is easily eliminated by requiring smokers to refrain from smoking where they will harm others.
- Comprehensive smoke-free policies protect citizens' health -- there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke.

***All Kentuckians should be protected from the dangers of secondhand smoke.
No one should have to choose between a job and good health.***

Local and state leaders have the duty to protect all workers!

It takes both local and state leaders working together to protect workers from secondhand smoke. Local laws are the backbone of a good state law. Education and leadership at the local level is essential for the successful passage and implementation of a comprehensive state law.

Local smoke-free laws lead the way!

Since Lexington's smoke-free law was passed in 2003 and upheld by the Kentucky Supreme Court in April of 2004, 26 additional communities have restricted smoking by ordinance or regulation. As of October 2010, *all workers* in 17 of those communities (or 31.5% of Kentucky's population) are protected by *comprehensive* smoke-free laws or regulations. This local leadership and success has inspired state policymakers and advocates to begin discussing a comprehensive statewide smoke-free law.

Local officials should not wait!

Passage of a comprehensive state smoke-free law will take time. Passing local comprehensive smoke-free laws will protect the rights of workers and citizens to breathe smoke-free air *right now*.

State officials must act!

A comprehensive statewide smoke-free law will ensure that every Kentuckian everywhere has the right to breathe smoke-free air. A state law must also continue to protect the authority of local governments to pass stronger smoke-free ordinances if they see fit.

For more information contact: Amy Barkley, abarkley@tobaccofreekids.org, 502-777-8148 10/29/10

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease and Prevention and Promotion, Office of Smoking and Health; 2006.