



Smoke Free Virginia Now

It's about health. It's about time.

www.smokefreevanow.org

P.O. Box 3737
Glen Allen, VA 23058-3737

Phone: (804) 225-5828
Email: info@vfhf.org

OUR STRATEGIC VISION

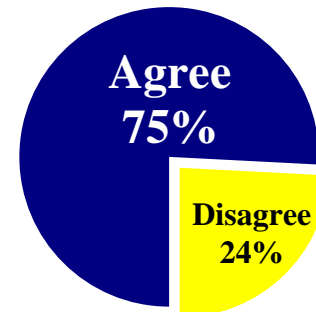
Our Mission

The mission of Virginians for a Healthy Future (VFHF) is to improve the health, education and welfare of Virginia's children, families, and communities by reducing the use of tobacco products in Virginia.

2008-2009 Campaign

VFHF is devoted to building a climate where support for smokefree air legislation can be advanced in the Commonwealth, supporting local control for tobacco policy, and increasing funding for prevention and cessation services.

Virginians Support a Statewide Law that Would Prohibit Smoking in Public Places



- 88% of Virginians feel all workers should be protected from secondhand smoke in the workplace.
- Only 6% of Virginians would go to bars and restaurants less often if they were smoke free.

Source: The Mellman Group – January 2008

ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS OF SECONDHAND SMOKE

Secondhand smoke comes from two places: smoke that is exhaled by the smoker, and smoke from the end of a burning cigarette. Secondhand smoke causes or exacerbates a wide range of adverse health effects, including cancer, respiratory infections, heart attacks, asthma, emphysema and COPD. Experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have determined that exposure to secondhand smoke is associated with an increased risk of heart attack and coronary heart disease, and has warned those with heart disease to avoid all indoor environments that permit smoking. Even limited exposure to secondhand smoke (as little as one half hour) has been shown to reduce the ability of the arteries of nonsmokers to dilate; thereby, diminishing the ability of the heart to get life-giving blood. Second hand smoke contains 4000+ chemicals (200+ are poisons and 70 known carcinogens) and annually:

- **Kills at least 35,000 people nationally (~1,000 in VA)**
- **Is responsible for ~2,500 SIDS deaths**
- **Causes ~300,000 ear infections in children**
- **Causes ~ 1 million asthma attacks**
- **Causes 150,000-300,000 lower respiratory tract infections in infants and children**

In 2002, heart attacks fell by 40 percent in Helena, MT after a smoke-free air ordinance was enacted.

Prohibiting smoking in the workplace can have an immediate and dramatic impact on the health of workers and patrons. A study conducted in Helena, MT, found that the number of heart attacks fell by 40 percent during a six-month period in 2002 when the city's comprehensive smoke-free air law was in effect as compared to the six months prior.

In June 2006, the U.S. Surgeon General released *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke*, twenty years after the first U.S. Surgeon General's report on the dangers of secondhand smoke. In it, the Surgeon General asserted that, "Nonsmokers need protection through the restriction of smoking in public places and workplaces." The 2006 report confirmed that secondhand smoke is a cause of lung cancer and heart disease, and has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system. The report stated children are especially vulnerable to other people's smoke, suffering acute respiratory infections such as bronchitis and pneumonia and more severe asthma and ear infections as a result. The Surgeon General's report also found that separating smokers from nonsmokers and ventilating buildings does NOT eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke.

The U.S. Surgeon General's 2006 Report on Secondhand Smoke states "There is NO risk-free level of secondhand smoke."

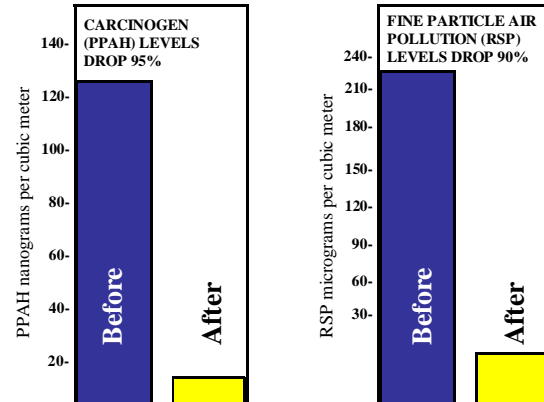
Smoke-free Air Laws, Good for Business

Numerous studies have shown that smoke-free air laws have either no effect or a positive effect on the economy.

In New York City, a study found that its smoke-free air law had a positive effect on the economy. Since the smoke-free air law took effect, business receipts for restaurants and bars have increased and employment has risen

In Delaware, which has the strongest smoke-free air law in the nation, business has remained steady. In fact, data from the Delaware Dept. of Public Health & ABC Commission shows there has been an increase in the number of restaurant and taproom licenses since the smoking ban took effect.

In Florida, a study by the Bureau of Economic & Business Research at the University of Florida found that the statewide smoke-free law, which took effect July 1, 2003, has not hurt sales or employment in the hotel, restaurant and tourism industries.



Delaware Restaurants, Bars, Casino and Pool Hall

Indoor Air Quality testing was conducted on Nov. 15, 2002 and Jan. 24, 2003 to assess the levels of air pollution before and after the Clean Indoor Air Law (smoking ban) went into effect. One casino, five restaurants with bars, one stand-alone bar (taproom) and one pool hall were tested. The result showed that workers and patrons are exposed to significantly lower levels of airborne pollutants and carcinogens thanks to the smoke-free law.

Source: *Air Quality Survey of Respirable Particles and Particulate Carcinogens in Delaware Hospitality Venues Before and After a Smoking Ban*, James Repace, Msc., Repace Associates, Inc. February 3, 2003.

Protecting Workers

HOSPITALITY WORKERS

Although 76% of U.S. white-collar workers are covered by smoke-free laws or policies, including 90% of teachers, just 43% of the country's 6.6 million food preparation and service workers, including bartenders, benefit from this level of protection. Restaurant workers are exposed to levels of secondhand smoke that are approximately 1.6 to 2.0 times higher than those levels to which office workers are exposed on the job. Workers in the "5 B's" (bars, bowling alleys, billiard halls, betting establishments, and bingo parlors) have secondhand smoke exposure levels that are 2.4 to 18.5 times higher than those in offices, and 1.5 to 11.7 times higher than those in restaurants — a risk level 47 times higher than the federal government's defined level for a carcinogen.

REPORT SAYS VIRGINIA HOSPITALITY VENUES SERVE UP DIRTY AIR FOR WORKERS & PATRONS

In a January 2006 report, internationally-recognized secondhand smoke researcher, James L. Repace, found that air quality in smoky Virginia restaurants, bars, bowling alleys and bingo halls was five times worse than the air in the Hampton Roads Tunnel and thirty times worse than air found along clogged I-95 and a Richmond toll booth during rush hour. The air quality data was collected in December 2005 from indoor and outdoor venues located in Dale City, Fredericksburg, Hampton Roads, Richmond and Roanoke. A copy of the full air quality study finding can be found at: www.smokefreevanow.org