



It's time...for everyone who lives and works in Wisconsin to have the same basic protections from secondhand smoke. Despite twenty years of scientific research proving that secondhand smoke is a serious health hazard, and the success of comprehensive smoke-free laws across the country, workers and customers across Wisconsin are still exposed.

It's time...to recognize the fact that secondhand smoke is a major health hazard:

- The 2006 Surgeon General's report declared the debate is over and the science is clear. Secondhand smoke is a serious health hazard that causes premature death and disease in nonsmoking adults.ⁱ
- Hundreds of studies and dozens of distinguished scientific and medical organizations have concluded that secondhand smoke is a serious health hazard that causes lung cancer, heart disease and serious respiratory illness in nonsmokers.
- The scientific evidence on the health risks associated with secondhand smoke is massive and conclusive and the only way to protect people is to eliminate their exposure.ⁱⁱ

It's time...that we all finally have the same basic right to breathe smoke-free air:

- Food service workers have a significantly greater risk of dying from lung cancer than the general public, due in part to their continuous exposure to secondhand smoke at work.ⁱⁱⁱ No one should have to choose between a job and good health.
- Bar and restaurant workers deserve the same protection from secondhand smoke that many office workers already enjoy.
- Evidence from smoke-free communities shows smoke-free policies improve restaurant and bar workers' health. Within several months of going smoke-free, Madison bartenders saw a significant reduction in respiratory symptoms like wheezing, cough and eye/nose irritation - symptoms that may be warning signs of serious conditions such as lung or heart disease.^{iv}
- Protecting our right to breathe clean air is a health and safety issue and should be no more optional than ensuring our food, water and public facilities are safe.

It's time...for Wisconsin to join the numerous other states that have gone smoke-free.

- 22 states and Washington D.C. have enacted comprehensive smoke-free workplace laws that cover all restaurants and taverns.
- Comprehensive smoke-free legislation covering all restaurants and bars has already passed in both Illinois and Minnesota this year, leaving Wisconsin further behind.
- Over 8,000 municipalities are now protected by a state or local smoke-free law covering all workplaces, and/or restaurants, and/or bars. This represents over 50% of the U.S. population!

It's time...for Wisconsin to enact a comprehensive statewide smoke-free law.

- The Surgeon General has concluded that eliminating smoking in indoor spaces is the only way to fully protect nonsmokers from exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Almost two-thirds (64%) of Wisconsin voters support a law that makes all workplaces and public places, including all restaurants and bars, smoke-free.^v
- The WI Restaurant Association is working to protect the people who patronize and work in their industry—they have endorsed a statewide smoke-free law with no exemptions.
- The American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association and other leading Wisconsin health advocacy groups support a comprehensive smoke-free law that includes all restaurants and taverns.

ⁱ 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: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006.

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ Siegel, M. Involuntary Smoking in the Restaurant Workplace: A Review of Employees Exposure and Health Effects. JAMA. 1993.

^{iv} Palmersheim K, Remington P, Gundersen D. Program Brief: The Impact of a Smoke-Free Ordinance on the Health and Attitudes of a Bartender. University of Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Center, Tobacco Surveillance and Evaluation Program. February 2006.

^v The Mellman Group and Public Opinion Strategies. Smoke-Free Laws in Wisconsin. February 2007.