

Smoking Bans

What are Smoking Bans?



As defined by Wikipedia, Smoking bans are government prohibitions or voluntary bans decided by establishment management on tobacco smoking in public or quasi-public (semi-public) indoor areas such as offices, restaurants, hotels, or even outdoor public areas such as parks and sports stadiums. (Wikipedia, Par. 1, March 2006)

They were put into effect for the health of non-smokers and even smokers, in an effort to get them to quit.

What are they for?

Smoking bans were put into effect for a variety of reasons. As we all know, smoking is bad for everyone's health. Smoking can lead to bronchitis, lung cancer, emphysema, and heart disease. When people used to smoke in enclosed areas it would not only make the environment very uncomfortable, but it was also ruining the health of not only smokers but even those who did not smoke. Second-hand smoke is one of the major reasons behind the bans. "Secondhand smoke contains more than 4000 chemicals,

including 69 known carcinogens such as formaldehyde, lead, arsenic, benzene, and radioactive polonium 210. A study issued in 2002 by the International Agency for Research on Cancer of the World Health Organization concluded that nonsmokers are exposed to the same carcinogens as active smokers.” (Wikipedia, Par. 2, March 2006)

In addition, places that allowed smoking smelled and were dirty. Think back to when you would walk into a restaurant when smoking was allowed. Not only did it smell when you walked in and the place was filled with smoke, but when you were seated there would be an ashtray sitting on the table with a whole bunch of butts in it and there would be ash on the table where you were going to eat. This, as well as, reducing the risk of fire, trying to get people to quit, due to inconvenience, and decreasing litter from the butts are all reasons for smoking bans.

Facts:

- By creating smoke-free environments, we are using the most effective strategy for the reduction of second-hand smoke exposure for those who do not smoke.
- Based on numerous studies, smoking bans have not, or at least significantly, decreased business in places that smoking was once allowed.
- Separating smokers and non-smokers in the same enclosed area reduces but does not terminate second-hand smoke exposure.
- Since smoking bans were passed a lot of smokers have found that their smoking habits have changed. Many have decreased their usual cigarette consumption, and some have even quit.
- There are at least 60 known cancer-causing substances in second-hand smoke.

- Being exposed to second-hand smoke is the cause for about 35,000 heart disease deaths and 3,000 lung cancer deaths in U.S. nonsmokers
- So far, 37 states in the U.S. have banned smoking to some degree
- Since smoking bans were put into effect, studies have shown that non-smokers are showing fewer signs of lung cancer.
- There are no real problems with smoking bans except that smokers are inconvenienced.

Healthy People 2010 States:

Since only 37 states have done something about smoking in public places they are urging the rest of the states to pass laws against it. They are reminding the public of the continued health risks against it and the continued health benefits from it. Some of the states have only banned smoking from some indoor areas and they are urging them as well to do more.

Epidemiologic Picture:

- Smoking bans have become more accepted by society as a whole.
- They are healthier for everyone, including smokers.
- Many smokers are still attempting to change the laws so that it may be voluntary for bars, restaurants, and clubs to decide whether or not they want to allow smoking.
- There are fewer hazards from fires in public places since smoking bans were put into effect.

Solutions:

- In order for smoking bans to be completely applied throughout the nation, more facts need to be distributed among the population.
- Smokers have to accept that people who do not smoke should not be exposed to hazardous chemicals caused by smoking, if they do not choose to be.

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