

More Than A Dozen Great Reasons for Cities to be Smoke Free

1. There is no safe level of secondhand smoke; it causes disease and death among children and adults. *U.S. Surgeon General Report on Secondhand Smoke 2006*
2. Comprehensive smoke free law reduces youth initiation to tobacco by as much as 40%. *Boston University School of Public Health, 2008*
3. Freedom of choice includes the responsibility not to harm others.
4. The public overwhelmingly supports & complies with smoke free law. 2/3 of North Dakota residents support expanding the smoke free law to include bars. *North Dakota Secondhand Smoke Study 2006*
5. Heart attack rates drop immediately following implementation of smoke free laws from 17% the first year up to 36% by year three. *American Heart Association 2009*
6. It has been done elsewhere, it can be done everywhere. More than 8,000 cities are protected by state or city smoke free laws covering all workplaces, bars, and restaurants. *Americans for Nonsmoker's Rights 2009*
7. It is a cost effective public health intervention that saves lives and money. *Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids 2008*
8. It reduces consumption rates of cigarettes by smokers resulting in more successful quit attempts. *U.S. Center for Disease Control* Less consumption of tobacco products means less burden to our national healthcare system.
9. Smoke Free laws do not result in negative economic effects. *North Dakota's Smoke Free Impact Study 2007*
10. Comprehensive smoke free policies do work; they are good for both business and the health of communities.
11. Everyone has the right to be protected against exposure to tobacco smoke.
12. Business owners may privately own their business, but by inviting the public in, they are responsible for providing a safe environment.
13. There are already many laws and regulations by which business owners must abide. Laws regulate many aspects of business, from occupancy permits to fire safety, food preparation, fall protection and sneeze guards on buffet lines.
14. Smoke free laws do not take away anyone's right to smoke. If a smoke free ordinance were enacted, smokers could still smoke in the majority of the city. Smoking will only be restricted in public places and workplaces where it is harmful to others.
15. There is no constitutional right to smoke. However, everyone has the right to breathe clean air.