

## Business Fact Sheet

*Smoke free ordinances make good business sense.*

- Dozens of studies showing no negative impact of 100% smoke free restaurant and bar laws have involved cities in California, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Mexico, New York, Texas and others.<sup>1</sup>
- Studies demonstrate that the neutral or positive economic effects of smoke free laws do not vary depending on the size, type, or location of the communities in which they are enacted.<sup>1</sup>
- Smoke free workplace policies improve corporate image in the marketplace. Companies that demonstrate concern for the health and well being of their workforce are more likely to be able to recruit and retain high quality employees.<sup>2</sup>
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that smoke free restaurants can expect to save about \$190 per 1000 square feet each year in lower cleaning and maintenance costs.<sup>3</sup>
- Over three fourths of white-collar workers are covered by smoke free policies, including 90% of teachers. However, only 43% of food services workers are provided smoke free work environments.<sup>4</sup>
- Nearly nine out of ten Marion County residents believe that restaurants would be healthier if they were smoke free. In addition, 83% agree that it would be nice to go out and enjoy restaurants in the county without smelling like smoke at the end of the evening.<sup>5</sup>
- More than half of Marion County residents indicate that a law prohibiting smoking in public places would have no effect on how often they visit restaurants.<sup>5</sup>
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommends the implementation of local ordinances to prohibit smoking in all workplaces and public places.<sup>6</sup>

References:

1. Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights, "Economic Impact of Smokefree Air Laws and Policies," 2003.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Benefits of a Smokefree Workplace," September 2003.
3. Michigan Department of Community Health, "The Dollars (and Sense) Benefits of Having a Smoke-free Workplace," 2000.
4. Shopland, D.R., Anderson, C.M., Burns, D.M., Gerlack, K.K.. "Disparities in smoke free workplace policies among food service workers," *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*. 2004; 46:347-356.
5. Smokefree Indiana. "Smokefree Indiana Marion County Report – 2004."
6. Task Force on Community Preventive Services, "Recommendations regarding interventions to reduce tobacco use and exposure to environmental tobacco smoke," *Am J Prev Med* 2001; 20:10-5.

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