

Frequently Asked Questions about Statewide Smoke-Free Laws A Guide for Restaurant Owners & Managers



Why should I be concerned about secondhand smoke?

- ◆ According to the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (2004), Food service workers appear to be 50 percent more likely than the general population to develop lung cancer, largely because many of them are exposed to secondhand smoke on the job.

The tobacco industry and others have consistently claimed that smoke-free laws will lead to a decrease in business, is that true?

- ◆ Smoke-free laws do not harm restaurant sales. In fact, more people are demanding smoke-free establishments. Data from the New York City Department of Finance shows that tax receipts increased by 8.7 percent, or approximately \$1.4 million after the smokefree air law took effect. Similar results were found in the state of Florida, where retail receipts for taverns and bars that served food remain unaffected by the state's smoke-free law.

Do maintenance costs decrease for smoke-free restaurants?

- ◆ The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that smoke-free restaurants can expect to save about \$190 per 1,000 square feet each year in lower cleaning and maintenance costs.

Do Michigan residents want smoke-free bars and restaurants?

- ◆ During a poll of registered Michigan voters, 79% said they would go to restaurants "more often" or "just as often" if they become smoke-free; and 70% of respondents indicated the same about bars, clubs and bowling alleys.

“I wish I had done this years ago. I have had an increase in business and would recommend any other place to do this [go smokefree]. I may have lost 10 of my regular customers but gained 50 new non-smoking ones in their place.”

- Jeff Martin, Owner, El Charros Restaurant, Fraser, MI

Restaurant Name _____

Address _____

Contact Name _____ Phone _____

Would you support a statewide smoke-free law covering restaurants and bars? Yes No

Would you like more information about going smoke-free? Yes No

Is your restaurant a member of the Michigan Restaurant Association? Yes No

Comments in support of smoke-free environments:

