



Tobacco Prevention and Control Comprehensive Smoke Free Air Laws

The American Heart Association's Position

- Smoking is still a leading cause of preventable death in the US and across the globe.¹
- Smoking not only claims the lives of those who use tobacco, but also those who are exposed to second-hand smoke.
- People with a lower socioeconomic status are disproportionately exposed to second-hand smoke, with children especially at risk.^{3,4}
- As a result, the American Heart Association supports comprehensive smoke free laws that prohibit smoking in all indoor areas of worksites and public places, including restaurants, bars and casinos. The American Heart Association advocates for a 100% indoor smoke free environment and supports the following:
 - Smoke free air laws that are comprehensive and apply to all indoor workplaces and public environments.
 - No preemption of local ordinances.
 - No exemptions for hardship, opting out, or ventilation.
 - No exemptions for casinos and gaming organizations, bars, or private clubs.
 - Comprehensive smoke free policies in multi-unit housing where children, adolescents, the elderly and the disabled are disproportionately exposed.

Fast Facts:

- Across the globe, tobacco use causes nearly 6 million deaths per year, and based on current trends tobacco use may lead to more than 8 million deaths annually by 2030.²
- Cigarette smoking is responsible for more than 480,000 deaths annually in the United States; more than 41,000 of those deaths result from secondhand smoke exposure.¹
- While we have made progress toward getting all 50 states smoke-free, momentum has stalled over the last several years with no states passing a comprehensive law in the last 5 years.⁷

Impact

Working in partnership with our tobacco control and prevention partners, we have been able to:

- Adopt smoke-free policies in all low-income, conventional public housing funded by the US Department Housing and Urban Development, benefitting more than 1.2 million households.⁵
- Achieve comprehensive smoke free air laws in 28 states and over 1000 municipalities covering just over 66% of the US population (as of January 2019).⁶

For more information and resources from the American Heart Association's policy research department on tobacco please visit:
<https://www.heart.org/en/about-us/policy-research>.

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. [The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General](#). Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014 [accessed 2018 Feb 22].
2. World Health Organization. [WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2011](#). Geneva: World Health Organization, 2011 [accessed 2018 Feb 22].
3. Kaufmann RB, et al. Vital signs: non-smokers' exposure to second-hand smoke—United States, 1999–2008. *MMWR*. 2010;59:7–12.
4. Homa, DM., et al. Vital Signs: Disparities in Nonsmokers' Exposure to Second-hand Smoke—United States, 1999–2012. *MMWR*. 2015. 64:4: 103–108
5. US Department of Housing and Urban Development. 2019. https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph
6. Americans for Non-Smokers Rights Foundation. 2019. <https://no-smoke.org/#1518200878061-fb9e43de-f40b>.
7. Holmes, CB. King BA. Babb, SD. Stuck in neutral: stalled progress in statewide comprehensive smoke-free laws and cigarette taxes, US 2000–2014. *Preventing Chronic Disease*. 2016; 13(6):e80.