The *Economic Impact* of Smoke-free Air Policies

Smoke-free Air Laws are *Good for Workers*:

- Although 76% of white collar workers are covered by smoke-free policies, just 52% of blue collar workers and only 43% of food service workers benefit from these protections (Journal of Occupational & Environmental Medicine, 2004). In other words, the less you earn, the more likely you are to be exposed to secondhand smoke on the job!

- In response to a Las Vegas casino worker's complaint, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) tested 124 non-smoking casino workers in smoking casinos. Results indicated a dangerous level of secondhand smoke exposure and NIOSH recommended casinos become smoke-free.

- Before New York bars and restaurants went smoke-free, 88% of hospitality workers reported experiencing sensory symptoms (red or irritated eyes, sore or scratchy throat, runny nose, sneezing or nose irritation). One year after the law took effect, complaints of sensory symptoms among the sample of workers dropped by 57%. (Tobacco Control, 2005)

- An examination of the impact of Ireland's smoke-free law on bar workers in Dublin found improvements in measured pulmonary function and significant reductions in self-reported irritant symptoms after the law went into effect. (American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, 2007).

Smoke-free Air Laws are *Good for Business*:

- The Surgeon General's 2006 Report examined numerous economic impact studies from states and local communities across the country. The report concluded that, "Evidence from peer-reviewed studies shows that smoke-free policies and regulations do not have an adverse economic impact on the hospitality industry."

- A comprehensive review of studies on the economic impact of smoke-free workplaces concluded that smoke-free policies do not have a negative impact on the hospitality industry and in fact can increase business. (Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs Center for Health Policy, 2009).

- *The 2006 Zagat Survey: America's Top Restaurants* found that of 115,000 Americans, 58% of respondents said they would dine out the same amount if restaurants were smoke-free and 39% would dine out more. Only 3% said they would dine out less often.

- Smoke-free laws help lessen the economic toll that secondhand smoke already takes on our state. According to a 2012 study from the Indiana University Bowen Research Center, secondhand smoke costs Indiana $1.3 billion in excess medical expenses and premature loss of life.

The *Health Impact* of Smoke-free Air Policies

Each year in the United States, an estimated 50,000 deaths are attributable to secondhand smoke breathed by nonsmokers. Of these deaths, 3,000 are due to lung cancer, 46,000 due to heart disease and approximately 430 to sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) each year. An estimated 1,200 people in Indiana die prematurely each year due to secondhand smoke exposure.

The U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that:

- Smoke-free workplace policies are the only effective way to eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke in workplace.
- Separating smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the air, and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate exposure.
- Blue collar and service employees are less likely than white collar indoor workers to be covered by smoke-free policies.
- Workplace smoking restrictions lead to less smoking among workers.

Anticipated Fiscal Outcomes of Smoke-free Air Laws that have *Health Impact:*

- **Reduced heart, lung and respiratory disease due to exposure to secondhand smoke**
  Compared to a control community with no smoke-free workplace law, Monroe County experienced a 59% net decrease in hospital admissions for heart attacks in nonsmokers, with no prior cardiac history, during the study period which tracked 22 months prior to and following the law. Monroe County and Bloomington have a comprehensive smoke-free workplace law. (Journal of Drug Education, 2007)

- **Increased quit attempts by smokers**
  Studies have found that requiring all workplaces to be smoke-free would reduce smoking prevalence by 10%. Workplace laws have their greatest impact on groups with the highest smoking rates. In addition, employees in smoke-free workplaces have higher rates of smoking cessation than employees where smoking is permitted. The average adult smoker costs employers $3,400.00 a year in lost productivity and excess medical expenses. (CDC: Coverage for tobacco use cessation treatments: why, what, and how. 2003)

- **Reduced youth initiation to smoking**
  Indiana data on youth smoking strongly suggest that smoke-free workplaces and homes are associated with significantly lower rates of adolescent smoking. In 2008, 79% of middle school students and 65% of high school students who smoke reported living with someone who also smokes cigarettes; 44% of nonsmoking middle school students and 42% of nonsmoking high school students reported living with a smoker. (2008 Indiana Youth Tobacco Survey)

Twenty communities in Indiana (Delaware Co., Hancock Co., Monroe Co., Vanderburgh Co., Vigo Co., Bloomington, Columbus, Crawfordsville, Cumberland, Elkhart, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Franklin, Greencastle, Indianapolis, Lawrence, Plainfield, Terre Haute, West Lafayette, and Zionsville) have passed comprehensive local smoke-free air ordinances which cover all workplaces, including bars, ensuring all workers are protected from secondhand smoke. These twenty comprehensive ordinances cover approximately 30% of all residents in Indiana.