

## Smoke-Free Laws are Good for Business!

### ✓ Smoke-Free Laws Have No Negative Impact on Restaurants and Bars

- The Surgeon General's Report on [\*The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke\*](#) examined numerous 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 [2009 review](#) of the extensive literature on the economic impact of smoke-free workplace laws concluded that smoke-free policies do not have a negative impact on the business activity of restaurants, bars, or establishments catering to tourists (with many studies finding a small positive effect).
- The 2008 [Zagat Survey: America's Top Restaurants](#) of 132,000 Americans noted that, "The verdict on smoking is overwhelming with 77% of diners saying they'd eat out less if smoking were permitted in local restaurants, and only 2% saying they'd dine out more."
- An in-depth analysis of more than ten years of [tax revenue data in California](#) found that the 1995 state smoke-free restaurant law was associated with an increase in restaurant revenues, while the 1998 state smoke-free bar law was associated with an increase in bar revenues
- Data published in 2010 from [ten Minnesota cities](#) found that local smoke-free laws had no negative impact on bar and restaurant revenue. This was true for total taxable sales as well as revenue from alcohol sales.
- An April 2005 [Harvard School of Public Health study](#) found that Massachusetts' comprehensive smoke-free law did not affect sales or employment in the state's restaurants, bars, and nightclubs after taking effect on July 5, 2004.
- A [March 2004 report](#) issued by the City of New York noted that one year after the city's law went into effect, "...the data are clear... Since the law went into effect, business receipts for restaurants and bars have increased, employment has risen, virtually all establishments are complying with the law, and the number of new liquor licenses issued has increased—all signs that New York City bars and restaurants are prospering."
- A [study released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) found that a comprehensive smoke-free policy in El Paso, TX did not affect restaurant and bar revenue in the year after it took effect in January 2002.
- In October 2010, the [Executive Director of the Connecticut Restaurant Association](#) said that the smoke-free law was a big issue for restaurateurs when it was implemented in October of 2003, but that today, "[t]he smoking ban is not an issue at all for restaurants. . . . When it first passed, restaurateurs were really nervous that once the ban was put into effect people wouldn't come out to eat and drink, and that's not what happened. Seven years later, customers are really happy to go out to bars and to eat and drink and not be in an atmosphere of smoke."
- Support for New York's smoke-free law has grown even among bar and restaurant owners. James McBratney, President of the Staten Island Restaurant and Tavern Association and initial critic of the proposed smoke-free law, was quoted in the [Feb. 6, 2005, issue of The New York Times](#) saying "I have to admit, I've seen no falloff in business in either establishment [restaurant or bar]." According to The Times, "He went on to describe what he once considered unimaginable: Customers actually seem to like it, and so does he."