

Smokefree Air in Mississippi

WHAT DO WE KNOW? | DECEMBER 2010

SECONDHAND SMOKE

- Smoke from cigarettes, cigars, and pipes contains 7,000 different chemicals, including several that cause cancer and heart disease.
- Secondhand smoke is classified as a Group A carcinogen by the U.S. EPA. This means it has been shown to cause cancer in people.
- There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Even brief exposure to secondhand smoke is harmful and has immediate effects.

CURRENT SITUATION

- More than 63% of the US population lives in place that protects people from secondhand smoke.
- Twenty-nine states, the District of Columbia, and hundreds of communities have implemented laws that prohibit smoking inside of all public places.

STARKVILLE & HATTIESBURG HEART ATTACK STUDIES

- Although many Mississippi communities have passed smoke-free ordinances, only 20% of the state's population lives in a community with a smoke-free ordinance.
- Starkville residents experienced a 27.7% reduction in heart attack admissions compared to the 14.8% reduction observed among those who did not live in Starkville.
- Hattiesburg residents experienced a 13.4% reduction in heart attack admissions compared to the 3.8% reduction observed among those who did not live in Hattiesburg.
- These smoke-free ordinances were followed by a cost savings of \$288,270 in Starkville and \$2,367,909 in Hattiesburg for heart attack admissions.

20
10

MISSISSIPPI
Tobacco Data

SALES TAX REVENUE

- Analyses of revenue from sales tax and hospitality tax in Hattiesburg, Starkville, and Oxford demonstrate that sales in the restaurant sector of the local economy continued to grow after implementation of smoke-free ordinances.
- More than 8 in 10 Mississippi adults support a law that would prohibit smoking in all restaurants; while three-quarters of Mississippi adults support a law that would prohibit smoking within twenty feet of a public doorway.

PUBLIC SUPPORT

- Results from the Social Climate Survey of Tobacco Control demonstrate broad voter support for smoke-free laws.
- Support for these laws is strong among Republicans and Democrats, and the majority of smokers support these laws.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Robert McMillen, Ph.D.
Social Science Research Center
Mississippi State University

ROBERT.MCMILLEN@SSRC.MSSTATE.EDU

WWW.SSRC.MSSTATE.EDU

WWW.MSSTATE.EDU

One Research Park, Suite 103
Starkville, MS 39759

P: 662.325.7127

F: 662.325.7966

For more information visit

MSTOBACCODATA.ORG

