



## What you need to know about...

### Smoke Free Legislation



#### Smoke Free is Good for Health

Secondhand smoke kills an estimated 53,000 people annually in the US. (National Cancer Institute) People who are exposed to secondhand smoke have 25 to 35% higher coronary death rates and nonsmokers working in a smoky environment have a 16-19% increased risk of developing lung cancer. (*Tobacco Smoke and Involuntary Smoking*; International Agency for Research on Cancer; Vol. 83; June 2002)

Secondhand smoke is a risk factor for the development of asthma in children and worsens the condition of up to one million asthmatic children. ("Setting the Record Straight," EPA, 1994) There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. (*Surgeon General's Report, 2006*)

Since 1998, lung cancer rates have fallen six times faster in California than in US states without smoke-free laws, according to the Californian Medical Association. Ventilation systems do not remove cancer causing agents from the air, even if they remove the smell of smoke. (*Surgeon General's Report, 2006*)

#### Smoke Free is Good for Business

- Hotel revenues increased in Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York after restaurant smoking bans went into effect. (*Glantz S, Charlesworth A. Tourism and Hotel Revenues Before and After Passage of Smoke Free Restaurant Ordinances. JAMA. 1999; 281: 1911-1918.*)
- California banned smoking in bars in 1998. In 2000, 91% of patrons either went to bars just as often as, or more frequently than before the ban. (Field Research Corporation, California, October 16, 2000)
- According to the Zagat Survey of America's Top Restaurants, restaurant goers prefer smoke-free restaurants.

#### How you can get Involved

- If you are in Chicago, please call 311 to report any violations of the Smoke-free Chicago law.
- Create a smoke-free home by prohibiting smoking on your property.
- If you live in an apartment or condo, work to implement a smoke-free policy throughout the entire building. (It is perfectly legal to create a lease addendum prohibiting smoking everywhere on the property, even within apartments.)
- Educate yourself on the facts. Then, educate those around you.
- Teach your children about the dangers of smoking and of secondhand smoke. Call the RHAMC to learn more about getting involved.



## What you need to know about...

### Smoke Free Legislation Cont.

#### Smoke Free Chicago

As of January 16, 2006, smoking is prohibited in: All enclosed workplaces; all restaurants without a bar area; all restaurant areas more than 15 feet from the bar counter; and within 15 feet of the entrance to enclosed public places, which includes common areas of multi-unit housing. As of July 1, 2008, smoking will also be prohibited in: All workplaces including all bars and taverns.



#### Smoke Free Cook County

As of March 14, 2007, all indoor workplaces in Cook County that are not covered by local municipal smoke-free laws are 100% smoke-free including restaurants and bars. All workplaces in unincorporated Cook County are 100% smoke-free. In a separate action, the Cook County Board voted unanimously to make all county facilities (including all court facilities, jails, etc.) 100% smoke-free.

#### Smoke Free Illinois

On May 1, 2007 the Smoke Free Illinois Act passed out of the legislature. Once signed by the governor it will prohibit smoking in public places, places of employment and governmental vehicles.

The Smoke Free Illinois Act repeals the current Illinois Clean Indoor Air Act and will create a floor for smoke free laws, allowing local communities to enact or retain stronger laws, but not allow weaker laws.

The act requires all public places and workplaces to be smoke free, including 15 feet from entrances, exits, windows that open, and ventilation intakes of smoke free locations.

No smoking signs must be posted and ashtrays removed. Fines range from \$250 to \$2,500 for building owners or operators depending on whether it is a first, second or third violation. Individual fines range from \$100 to \$200 for a person caught smoking in a non-smoking location.

The law is enforced by the Illinois Department of Public Health, State certified local public health departments and local law enforcement.

Many communities in Illinois have already passed their own smoke-free laws. Smoke-free Illinois communities include: Bedford Park, Burr Ridge, Chicago, Deerfield, Evanston, Highland Park, Hinsdale, Lincolnshire, Oak Park, Park Ridge, Skokie, Urbana, Wilmette, Bloomington-Normal, Buffalo Grove, Champaign, Cook County, DeKalb, Elk Grove Village, Lake Forest, Lindenhurst, Sangamon County, Springfield and Vernon Hills.