

Community Smokefree Ordinances

Nationwide, there is a growing trend of communities enacting local, community based Clean Indoor Air and Tobacco Tax ordinances. After the 2006 Surgeon General's report, community policy makers are getting the message loud and clear. "There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke" (Surgeon General, Effects of Exposure to Secondhand Smoke, 2006)

The important messages to convey in the process of passing these ordinances are:

- Secondhand smoke kills about 50,000 Americans each year.
- All workers deserve to work in safe, smokefree environments
- Ventilation equipment is not effective in alleviating the harmful effects of secondhand smoke

In Alaska, there are several communities with clean indoor air ordinances:

Bethel – Was the first Alaskan community to pass an ordinance. In 1998, they passed an ordinance that banned smoking in all public places, and all workplaces excluding bars and facilities used for private functions.

Anchorage – Currently bars and bingo halls are exempt, but an ordinance was passed in August 2006 to include these businesses that is scheduled to become effective July 1, 2007

Sitka - In 2005 Sitka passed a clean indoor air ordinance with an exemption for stand alone bars and private clubs

Soldotna - Has a smokefree restaurant ordinance that went into effect in 2002.

Tobacco Taxes

Many Alaskan communities have the ability to assess excise taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products. Tobacco taxes have been shown to be an effective method of reducing youth smoking and general prevalence in adults. The current statewide tobacco tax is \$1.80 per pack. In addition, these communities have local tobacco taxes:

Anchorage -	\$.30 per pack
Sitka -	\$1.00 per pack
Mat-Su Borough -	\$1.00 per pack
Juneau -	\$.30 per pack
Fairbanks –	8% of wholesale price (both City and Borough have 8% tax)