



## **State Smokefree Workplace Laws**

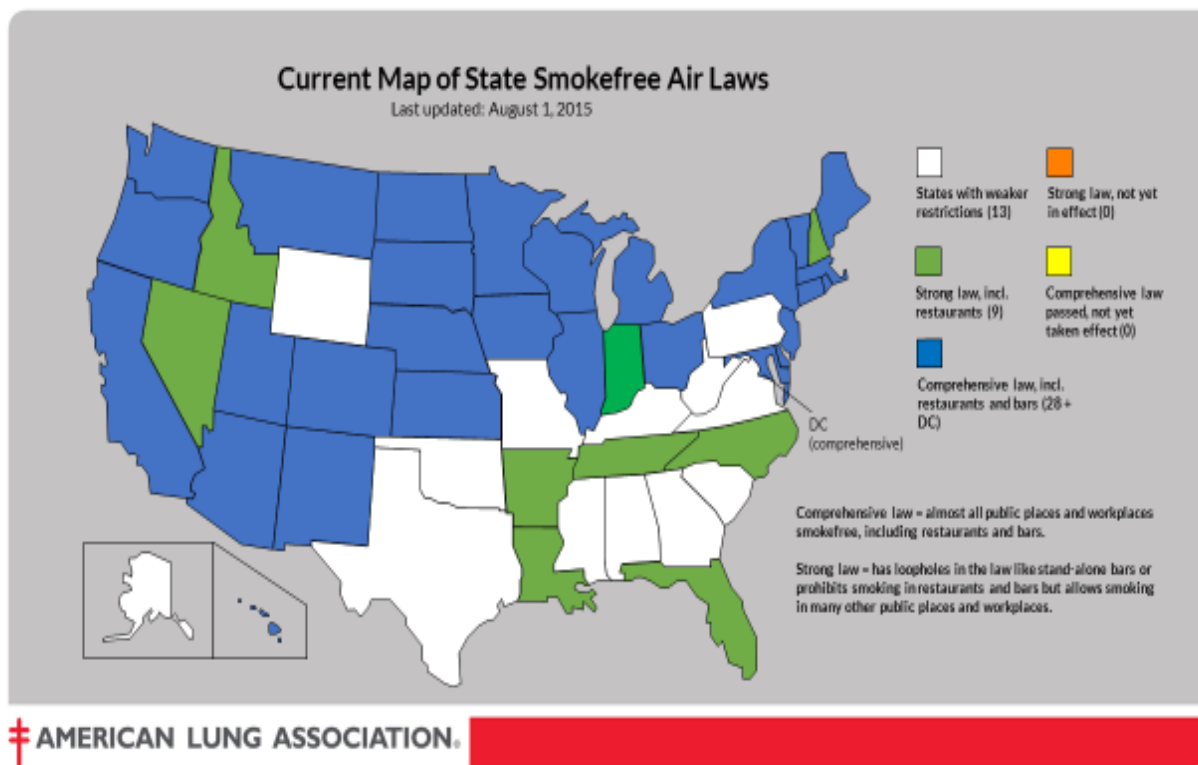
Secondhand smoke is a serious health hazard, causing or worsening a wide range of adverse health effects, including lung cancer, respiratory infections, and asthma. A number of states have moved to protect their citizens from this threat by passing laws that prohibit smoking in almost all public places and workplaces, including restaurants and bars. As of July 1, 2015, 28 states and the District of Columbia have such laws in effect. See the map below to see which states these are.

### **Action/Key Facts on Smokefree Air Laws:**

- In 2015, no states have approved comprehensive smokefree laws. Only one state, North Dakota has approved a comprehensive smokefree law in the past five years.
- The American Lung Association issued its *Smokefree Air Challenge* in 2006 calling on all states to pass comprehensive smokefree laws as soon as possible. For more information go to: [www.lung.org/smokefree](http://www.lung.org/smokefree).

### **Smokefree Air Laws Protect Public Health:**

- The 2014 Surgeon General's report on smoking, *the Health Consequences of Smoking – 50 Years of Progress*, found that 2.5 million people have died from exposure to secondhand smoke over the past 50 years. The report also concluded that secondhand smoke is a cause of stroke and that lost productivity costs due to secondhand smoke are estimated at 5.6 billion per year.<sup>1</sup>
- The 2010 Surgeon General's report on smoking, *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking-Attributable Disease* confirmed that there is no risk-free level of exposure to tobacco smoke, and that inhaling the complex mixture of more than 7,000 chemicals in tobacco smoke causes adverse health outcomes, particularly cancer and cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases.<sup>2</sup>
- The 2006 Surgeon General's report, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke*, found that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, and that secondhand smoke causes approximately 3,400 lung cancer deaths and 46,000 heart disease deaths among nonsmokers every year.<sup>3</sup>
- In October 2009, the prestigious Institute of Medicine issued a new report, *Secondhand Smoke Exposure and Cardiovascular Effects: Making Sense of the Evidence*, that confirmed that secondhand smoke is a cause of heart attacks. The report also concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, and that even relatively brief exposure could cause a heart attack.<sup>4</sup>



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For more information on state smokefree air laws and policies, check out the American Lung Association's Tobacco Policy Project/State Legislated Actions on Tobacco Issues (SLATI) website at <http://slati.lung.org>.

Last updated: August 1, 2015; updated as information changes or annually.

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking-Attributable Disease: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2010.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General—Executive Summary*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006.

<sup>4</sup> IOM (Institute of Medicine). *Secondhand Smoke Exposure and Cardiovascular Effects: Making Sense of the Evidence*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, 2009.