

The Case for Smokefree Outdoor Areas

Smokefree outdoor policies protect people from secondhand smoke, encourage tobacco users to quit, and reinforce healthy lifestyles for kids.

Public Opinion

86% of Oregonians say that people should be protected from secondhand smoke.

89% of Oregonians say that secondhand smoke is harmful.

Entryways

Businesses that eliminate smoking around the doorway create a clean, welcoming storefront.

Smokefree entryway policies reduce loitering, cigarette litter, and fire hazards.

Smokefree entryway policies prevent secondhand smoke from entering the building and endangering employees' health.

To prevent secondhand smoke from entering the building, prohibit smoking within 20 feet of entryways, air intake systems, and windows that open.

Washington state prohibits smoking within 25 feet of all workplaces, and California prohibits smoking within 20 feet of all government buildings.

Parks & Outdoor Events

Smokefree policies benefit everybody by creating a clean, healthy environment.

Smokefree policies reduce litter. Cigarette butts are the most common source of litter, take decades to decompose, release toxins into the water supply, and are commonly ingested by young children.

Smoking materials are a major cause of fires. Smokefree policies reduce fire hazards.

Jogging trails, sporting fields, playgrounds, concert/theater venues, community fairs, picnic grounds and other community gathering places would all benefit from smokefree policies.

Secondhand smoke is a first-rate killer.

800 Oregonians die annually due to secondhand smoke.

"The debate is over. The science is clear: secondhand smoke is not a mere annoyance, but a serious health hazard," declared U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona in 2006.

Secondhand smoke exposure causes heart disease, breast cancer, and lung cancer in adults and sudden infant death syndrome, asthma, and other respiratory problems in children.

There is NO risk-free level of secondhand smoke exposure, with even brief exposure adversely affecting the cardiovascular and respiratory systems.

There are over 4000 chemicals in secondhand smoke, and over 50 of them cause cancer. These chemicals include benzene, arsenic, formaldehyde, and carbon monoxide.