



Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition
E-Newsletter

Supporting Tobacco Control for Kansas

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Kansas Association of Local Health Departments

Kansas Public Health Association

Kansas Health Institute

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CDC Tobacco & Health

Tobacco.Org

Americans for Non-Smokers Rights

Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids

Tobacco Control Network

American Cancer Society

American Heart Association

American Lung Association

National Cancer Institute

Senate to look at new workplace smoking ban

Senator Laura Kelly introduced what she called a comprehensive, uniform clean air bill in on February 27 Ways and Means Committee with her motion being seconded by Senator Jean Schodorf. It is SB 660 and because Ways and Means is an exempt committee where new bills can be introduced later in the session, there may be some action taken.

The bill would:

1. provide for smoke free public places and places of employment, with the only exceptions being:
 - a. the outdoor areas of any building or facility beyond 10 feet of any entrance or exit to such building or facility;
 - b. private homes and residences, except when such home or residence is used as a day care home, as defined in K.S.A. 65-530, and amendments thereto; and
 - c. a hotel or motel room rented to one or more guests if the total percentage of such hotel or motel rooms in such hotel or motel does not exceed 20%.
2. have no requirement for a county-by-county vote for the provisions of the bill to be implemented.
3. provide for various requirements for signage and fines for violations.
4. leave in place the power of local governments to enact even stronger provisions than would be established by this new law.

Please contact your legislators and let them know how important this comprehensive clean air protection is to all Kansans.

Senate stops work on weakened workplace smoking ban

Neither friends or foes were pleased with the final product. As amended in the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senate Bill 493 would allow Kansans to smoke in bars, private clubs, tobacco shops and cigar bars, and gaming facilities. It would require that each county put the proposal on the general election ballot in November; allowing voters to decide whether the county would opt-in to the new law. The original sponsors all withdrew their support. Its fate remains unknown.

“Neither side got what they wanted out of this,” Sen. Derek Schmidt, told the KHI News Service. “Neither one is happy. I don’t know if that

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means it's a good compromise or if that means everybody is now going to run away from it and it has no chance of passing."

Sen. Jim Barnett said the amendments would likely weaken support for the bill, including that from health advocacy groups that had already criticized the bill because of the county option. Mary Jayne Hellebust, executive director of the Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition, told KHI she wasn't satisfied with the added exemptions. TFKC has supported the idea of a statewide smoking ban that covers all workplaces and public places, but hasn't fully endorsed the bill.

"When you start adding exemptions particularly for casinos, bars, private clubs and bingo, even with age restrictions, then you are getting away from that concept of protecting people from secondhand smoke," she said. TFKC continues to support all 21 proposals made by the Kansas Health Policy Authority to the Legislature.

Sen. David Wysong, the original bill's sponsor, released a statement expressing his disappointment with anti-tobacco and health advocacy for their lack of support for the original bill.

"Eighty percent of Kansans do not smoke, yet big tobacco continues to both control the air we breathe and — at this point — the Kansas Legislature, when it comes to clean indoor air legislation," he said. "Things will not change in the Kansas Legislature until such organizations as the American Cancer Society and American Heart Association organize a grassroots statewide campaign to educate and lobby for change."

Increased tobacco taxes face uphill battle in Kansas

House Bill 2737 would raise the cigarette tax by 50 cents and the tobacco products tax to 57 percent of wholesale price. It was heard by the House Taxation Committee in early February.

The tax increase would fund significant parts of the Kansas Public Health Authority proposals for health reform, as well as reduce consumption and prevalence rates of tobacco use in Kansas.

Action is yet to be taken on the bill by the House Committee.

Nebraska passes statewide smoking ban

A strict statewide smoking ban modeled after the one in Lincoln was approved by Nebraska lawmakers February 22 and signed into law by Governor Heineman on February 26. The ban will go into effect June 1, 2009.

Cities and counties couldn't opt out of the ban, which covers bars, restaurants and all other workplaces in the state except for retail tobacco shops and places where smoking research is done. Hotel rooms also would be exempted.

The manager of what used to be a popular hangout for smokers before Lincoln's ban was approved three years ago said business owners across the state may not have a lot to worry about.

"At first, it was difficult to deal with, but if the ban affects everybody, what do you do?" said Jim Hametis, manager of Kuhl's Restaurant in downtown Lincoln. Business was down the first six or so months of the ban, but returned to near normal levels.

"It hasn't gone down enough to complain about," he said.

Save These Dates

Smokeless Tobacco Use in Youth Community Meeting, March 10

The meeting will be held in Topeka at the First United Methodist Church, Sweet Building, at 6th and Topeka from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The meeting is hosted by the Safe Streets' Students Taking Action in Topeka (STAT) and is made possible by a mini-grant from TFKC. To register, contact, Safe Streets at (785) 266-4606.

Ignite Youth Conference, April 11

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Wichita State University For Middle and High School students.

The conference will include discussions on the

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Save These Dates, continued

tobacco industry manipulation; Hollywood's role/marketing; and media 101 to learn how your group can effectively use media. To register, or for more information, contact Jessica Hoskinson (620-694-2900) or Kim Neufeld (316-660-7304). The event is free.

3rd Annual Clean Air Summit, May 15

Learn how to make your community smoke free. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at University of Kansas-Edwards Campus, 12600 Quivira Rd, Overland Park
Topics for this year's program include working with media and elected officials; the latest information on state-wide smoke free efforts and receive the new Clean Air Workbook with step-by-step instructions for grassroots organizing. Lunch will be provided. To reserve your spot or for more information e-mail info@cleanairkc.com or call 913-652-1927.

Arrangements are being made to have video-conferencing sites in Hays and Dodge City at the KDHE District Offices. Please watch for more information about this.

“Through with Chew” week celebrated

Smokeless tobacco is recognized as cause of cancer as well as nicotine addiction. Several communities in Kansas participated in “Through with Chew” week, February 17-23, to get out the word that Kansas has a higher than average use of smokeless tobacco. Some of the activities included:

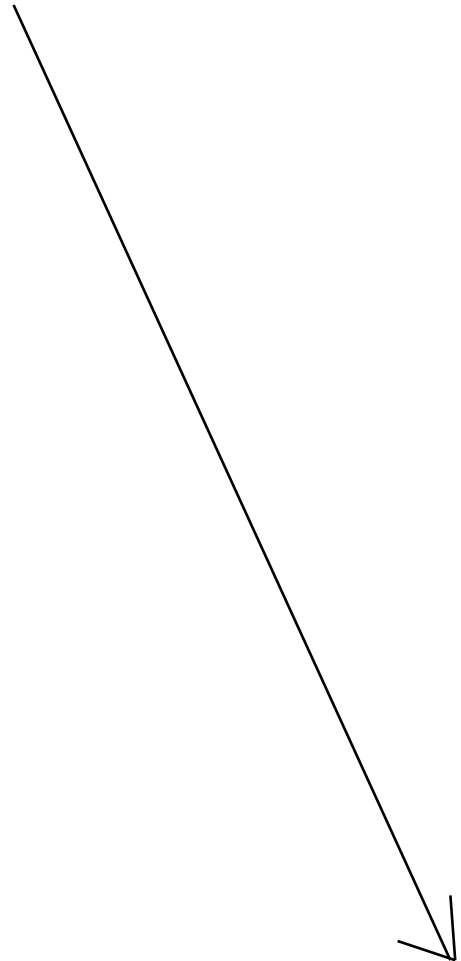
The Wellness Partnership and the Dickinson County Health Department worked with local dentists to help get out the word and provide quit kits.

The Sedgwick County Health Department was also putting out the message that smokeless does not mean harmless. They promoted the Kansas Tobacco Quitline (1-886-KAN-STOP).

“Through with Chew Week” was started in 1989 by the American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery. There is more information at www.throughwithchew.com.

The Toll of Tobacco in Kansas – Latest Version

The Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids has released a revised Toll of Tobacco with the latest statistics for Kansas. That fact sheet follows on the next page.





THE TOLL OF TOBACCO IN KANSAS

Tobacco Use in Kansas

- High school students who smoke: 21% [Girls: 20.1% Boys: 21.7%]
- High school males who use smokeless tobacco: 17.4%
- Kids (under 18) who try cigarettes for the first time each year: 12,500
- Additional Kids (under 18) who become new regular, daily smokers each year: 3,800
- Packs of cigarettes bought or smoked by kids in Kansas each year: 6.8 million
- Kids exposed to second hand smoke at home: 161,000
- Adults in Kansas who smoke: 20.0% [Men: 22.2% Women: 18.0% Pregnant Females: 12.7%]

Nationwide, youth smoking has declined significantly since the mid-1990s, but that decline appears to have slowed or even reversed. The 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that the percentage of high school students reporting that they have smoked cigarettes in the past month increased to 23 percent in 2005 from 21.9 percent in 2003. 20.8 percent of U.S. adults (about 45 million) currently smoke, about the same as the 20.9 percent who smoked in 2004 and 2005.

Deaths in Kansas From Smoking

- Adults who die each year in Kansas from their own smoking: 3,900
- Adult nonsmokers who die each year from exposure to secondhand smoke: 220 to 630
- Kansas kids who have lost at least one parent to a smoking-caused death: 2,300
- Kids alive in state today who will ultimately die from smoking: 54,000 (given current smoking levels)

Smoking, alone, kills more people each year than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides combined. For every person in Kansas who dies from smoking approximately 20 more state residents are suffering from serious smoking-caused disease and disability, or other tobacco-caused health problems.

Tobacco-Related Monetary Costs in Kansas

- Annual health care expenditures in the State directly caused by tobacco use: \$927 million
- Annual health care expenditures in Kansas from secondhand smoke exposure: \$43.3 million
 - State Medicaid program's total health expenditures caused by tobacco use: \$196.0 million
- Citizens' state/federal taxes to cover smoking-caused gov't costs: \$627.3 million (\$585/household)
- Smoking-caused productivity losses in Kansas: \$863 million
- Smoking-caused health costs and productivity losses per pack sold in Kansas: \$11.66

The productivity loss amount, above, is from smoking-death-shortened work lives, alone. Additional work productivity losses totaling in the tens of billions nationwide come from smoking-caused work absences, on-the-job performance declines, and disability during otherwise productive work lives. Other non-health costs caused by tobacco use include direct residential and commercial property losses from smoking-caused fires (about \$400 million nationwide); and the costs of extra cleaning and maintenance made necessary by tobacco smoke and tobacco-related litter (about \$4+ billion per year for commercial establishments alone).

Tobacco Industry Advertising and Other Product Promotion

- Annual tobacco industry marketing expenditures nationwide: \$13.4 billion (\$36+ million per day)
- Estimated portion spent in Kansas each year: \$106.7 million

Published research studies have found that kids are three times more sensitive to tobacco advertising than adults and are more likely to be influenced to smoke by cigarette marketing than by peer pressure, and that one-third of underage experimentation with smoking is attributable to tobacco company marketing.

Kansas Government Policies Affecting The Toll of Tobacco in Kansas

- Annual State tobacco prevention spending from tobacco settlement and tax revenues: \$1.4 million [National rank: 46 (with 1 the best), based on percent of CDC recommendation]
- State cigarette tax per pack: \$0.79 [National rank: 33rd (average state tax is \$1.11 per pack)]

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids / January 31, 2008

Sources

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Related Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids Fact Sheets, available at:

<http://www.tobaccofreekids.org> or <http://tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets>.