

# **SMOKE-FREE RESTAURANT AND WORKPLACES FACT SHEET**

## **“Death by cigarette smoke should not be a condition of employment” Jack Henning and Tom Rankin (California Labor Federation)**

Secondhand smoke is the **third** leading cause of preventable death in the United States killing over 50,000 nonsmokers each year. “For every eight smokers the tobacco industry kills, they take one nonsmoker with them.” (*Glantz, S.A. & Parmley, W. AHA Circulation, 1991:83:1-12; and Taylor, A., Johnson, D. & Kazemi, H. AHA Circulation, 1992:699-702*)

The evidence on the dangers of secondhand smoke is well-known, especially for food service employees. According to a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, “Environmental tobacco smoke is a significant health hazard for food service workers. To protect these workers, smoking in restaurants and bars should be prohibited.” (*M. Siegel, M.D., M.P.H., “Involuntary Smoking in the Restaurant Workplace,” Journal of the American Medical Association, July 1993:270:4*)

The California State Legislature passed Labor Code 6404.5 (Assembly Bill 13) also known as the California Smoke-Free Workplace Act in 1994 making all restaurants and nearly all other workplaces 100% smoke-free. Labor Code 6404.5 took effect in restaurants and other workplaces January 1, 1995 and in bars and casinos on January 1, 1998. (*California State Legislature in August 1994 passed California Smoke-Free Workplace Act. Implemented January 1, 1995 and BREATH—The California Smoke-Free Bars, Workplaces and Communities Program*)

88.7% of Californians agree that **all** indoor work sites should be smoke-free. (*1997, California Adult Tobacco Survey, CDHS*)

After the California Smoke-Free Workplace Act went into effect, final **Taxable Sales Figures** from the California Board of Equalization for 1997 showed annual taxable sales reported by owners of establishments that sold beer and wine (including restaurants) were \$7.1 billion dollars for that year. In 1998, sales for these establishments increased to \$7.6 billion dollars. By the third quarter of 1999, they had jumped to \$8.7 billion dollars. (*California Board of Equalization, November 1999*)

Hundreds of American cities and counties have enacted smoke-free clean indoor air ordinances protecting employees and the public from the deadly results of secondhand smoke. In addition, the states of California, Maryland, Utah, and Vermont have statewide laws prohibiting smoking in workplaces including restaurants. (*BREATH—The California Smoke-Free Bars, Workplaces and Communities Program and American Nonsmokers’ Rights Foundation 2001*)

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A Statewide Project of the American Lung Association of the East Bay and

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This material was made possible by funds received from the Tobacco Tax Health Protection Act of 1988—

Proposition 99, under Grant # 00-90379 with the California Department of Health Services,

Tobacco Control Section.

Rev.01/02