Public Health Solutions

SMOKE-FREE OUTDOOR AIR

NYC has made great strides in protecting the health of city residents from the harmful effects of smoking and secondhand smoke through enacting several laws that curb smoking outdoors. NYC Smoke-Free, a program of Public Health Solutions, works to eliminate smoking outdoors, especially where families, children and the elderly gather, to reduce health hazards from secondhand smoke.

THE DANGERS OF SECONDHAND SMOKE

Toxic secondhand smoke is a mixture of smoke from burning tobacco products and smoke that is exhaled during tobacco use. There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke — even minimal exposure has been shown to be harmful — and nonsmokers are constantly exposed in their homes and in outside public spaces.

- More than 7,000 chemicals are found in secondhand smoke — hundreds of which are toxic and 70 of which are known to cause cancer
- Secondhand smoke causes 7,330 deaths from lung cancer and 33,950 deaths from heart disease each year
- Since 1964, 2.5 million adults who were non-smokers died due to
- secondhand smoke
- Almost 500,000 NYC adults and children are exposed to secondhand smoke in their homes — increasing their risk of diseases such as asthma

SMOKE FREE AIR ACT OF 2002

In March 2003, the first expansion of the Smoke Free Air Act went into effect to further protect the health of NYC workers. The act banned smoking in virtually all workplaces, indoor recreational venues, and outside public spaces such as parks and beaches. It also built on existing laws that ban smoking in restaurants and most bars, as well as some outdoor restaurant and bar seating areas.

- Smoking rates have decreased to 13.1% among New Yorkers — a 39% decrease from 2002
- Traditional smoking rates among NY youth were 4.3% in 2016, compared to 27% in 2000
- Secondhand smoke exposure is on the decline — in 2012, 25% of nonsmokers had measurable levels of cotinine, compared to 88% in 1991

ADVOCATING FOR CONTINUED PROGRESS

Over the past 15 years, the Smoke Free Air Act has had a profound impact on the lives of New Yorkers — allowing them to walk through our communities without fear of breathing in toxic cigarette smoke — and has contributed to a steady decrease in smoking rates across the city. However, many disparities still persist.

- 27% of Chinese American men smoke — causing high rates of high blood pressure, heart disease, and cancer
- 21% of lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults and 36% of transgender adults smoke cigarettes — compared to 15% of straight adults
- Following a long-term decline in smoking rates among youth, 43.8% of NY high school students now use ENDS, which serve as a gateway to traditional smoking

CONTACT US

NYC Smoke-Free
Visit: nycsmokefree.org
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THE EVOLUTION OF OUTDOOR SMOKING IN NYC

Smoking in outdoor spaces is an ongoing health hazard that exposes thousands of New Yorkers to secondhand smoke every day. Over the past 15 years, laws and regulations have drastically reduced outdoor smoking by making it illegal to smoke in public areas — protecting thousands of people from the deadly health effects of secondhand smoke.

1995 — THE SMOKE FREE AIR ACT OF 1995 LIMITS SMOKING TO DESIGNATED "SMOKING" AREAS IN SEVERAL PUBLIC SPACES AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

2002 — THE SMOKE FREE AIR ACT OF 2002 BUILDS ON PAST LAWS TO BAN SMOKING IN OUTDOOR SPACES, SUCH AS PARKS, BEACHES, AND RESTAURANTS

2014 — ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS (ENDS) ARE ADOPTED INTO THE SMOKE-FREE AIR ACT

2016 — THE SMOKELESS TOBACCO LAW GOES INTO EFFECT, MAKING IT ILLEGAL FOR ANYONE TO USE SMOKELESS TOBACCO AT A SPORTS OR RECREATIONAL ARENA

2018 — THE NEW YORK HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (NYCHA) SMOKE-FREE POLICY GOES INTO EFFECT, PROHIBITING SMOKING IN ALL NYCHA BUILDINGS, INCLUDING OUTDOOR AREAS ON THE PREMISES

NYC Smoke-Free works with community-based organizations, office buildings, churches, large and small business alike and can provide education, resources, technical assistance and signage to help you create smoke-free protections for all workers, residents and visitors.

Please visit **nycsmokefree.org/connect/** to contact your borough Community Engagement Manager and start the process.

www.nycsmokefree.org @NYCSmokeFree