

Why Businesses Should Be Smokefree



If you could have a safer workplace, a cleaner workplace, a healthier workplace, a more productive workplace – and it wouldn't cost you a dime....**Would you?**

If you could save thousands of dollars a year.....**Would you?**

Making your business smoke-free can do all that, and more.

\$2,893 Excess Healthcare Costs

\$4,307 Smoking Breaks

\$724 Excess Absenteeism

+ **\$647** Presenteeism

\$8,156

ANNUAL TOTAL EXCESS
COST PER SMOKER¹

Being smokefree is good for business and good for the health of you, your employees, and your customers. Being smokefree can even help increase worker productivity and satisfaction rates.

Tobacco Stops with Me has reported that "smoking costs Oklahoma businesses **\$5,816** per smoker per year."² This is largely due to excessive absenteeism, increased healthcare costs, and lower employee productivity. For instance, smokers take twice as many sick days per year than non-smokers. Nearly one-fifth of non-smoking employees in the U.S are exposed to secondhand smoke in the workplace, yet most employed adults believe workplaces should be smoke free.*

*Studies on a variety of patient populations showed a brief spike in costs around the time of quitting tobacco. Researchers note this might be the case because people are likely amid a health care episode and see that time as ideal for cessation.³

Being smoke-free in the workplace will also:

- Lower cleaning and maintenance expenses (carpets, drapes, ducts, paintwork)
- Lower insurance premiums (fire, medical, worker comp, liability)
- Lower labor costs



New York City passed a Smoke-Free Air Act in 2003 which included bars and restaurants to go smokefree.⁴



In 2006, the Surgeon General reported that there is no level of risk-free exposure to secondhand smoke.



In March 2004 the New York City Department of Finance conducted a study to see if this negatively affected the hospitality businesses. Their study concluded that, through business tax receipts, business increased by 8.7% within the first year of the law in place and employment in restaurants and bars increased.



1. Smoking and Health Care Costs (theexprogram.com)
2. Tobacco-Free Workplaces | Smoke Free Business | Tobacco Stops With Me
3. Smoking and Health Care Costs (theexprogram.com)
4. SmokeFreeCityReportFinal328.doc (tobaccofreekids.org)



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State Department
of Health

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