

NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES

IMPLEMENTING SMOKE-FREE POLICIES AND REGULATIONS IN PUBLIC SPACES



PROBLEM

Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death worldwide, killing over 8 million people annually—including 1.2 million deaths from secondhand smoke exposure. Secondhand smoke is a toxic mixture of more than 7,000 chemicals, including approximately 70 known carcinogens. It is a proven cause of cancer, stroke, heart disease, and other illnesses. Everyone deserves the right to breathe clean air in workplaces and public spaces, free from the harms of secondhand smoke, but weak or non-existent smoking policies limit cities' ability to protect residents.



SOLUTION

Pass and implement smoke-free laws that ban smoking in indoor and outdoor public spaces, launch information campaigns to reduce smoking, and enforce strict tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship bans. These actions lead to cleaner air and reduced smoking rates—particularly among young people. By protecting the public from the serious health risks of secondhand smoke exposure, these laws result in better health outcomes, are widely supported by communities, and benefit businesses.

IMPACT

Cities with "Smoke-Free" policies significantly decrease or even eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke.

In New York City, smoking bans prevented:

10,000 premature deaths

Smoke-Free policies have been adopted in:

1,000+ cities **ACROSS** **74** countries **PROTECTING**
~2.1 billion people worldwide from second hand smoke

CHALLENGES THIS IDEA CAN HELP YOU NAVIGATE

- Unnecessary and life-threatening secondhand smoke exposure for citizens
- Limited policies in place to protect residents from the impact of smoking

ADOPT THIS IDEA: 3 KEY STEPS

Start by

Assessing your city, town, or municipality's current smoking laws (or lack thereof).



Find your champions **1**

Identify local advocates to help push for strong smoke-free laws.



Map the process **2**

Develop a strategy for passing smoke-free laws by working with local stakeholders.



Advocate **3**

Run a successful campaign for implementing strong smoke-free regulations and pass strengthened laws.

