

Resources

Fears that smoking bans may damage business profits are largely unfounded. Studies of hotels, bars and restaurants in several states, as well as Canada and Australia all show that smoking bans do not result in a reduction in business.

There is no safe level of exposure to ETS.

Ventilation cannot "clean the air" and protect workers from exposure.

Businesses interested in developing a smoke-free workplace policy may visit www.bergenhealth.org/tobacco, the Bergen County Department of Health Services Web site, where a model smoke-free policy is available.

(201) 634-2690
www.bergenhealth.org/tobacco

American Cancer Society
(201) 343-2222

American Lung Association of New Jersey
(973) 227-7720

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
(770) 488-5762

NJ Group Against Smoking Pollution
(908) 273-9222

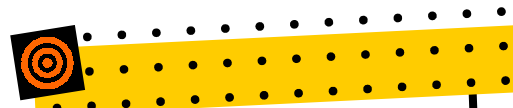
Bergen County Communities Against Tobacco (CAT) Coalition
(201) 488-9368

NJ Quitline
1-866-NJ-STOPS

NJ Quitnet
www.njquitnet.com



Developed under the auspices of
Bergen County Executive
Dennis McNerney
and the Board of Chosen Freeholders



Clearing the Air @ work

Bergen County
Department of Health
Services
327 E. Ridgewood Ave
Paramus, NJ 07652

Tel: (201) 634-2600
www.bergenhealth.org/tobacco

Health and Safety
Information Line
(201) 225-7000



For more information
call: (201) 634-2690

Facts About Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS)

Fact: The Environmental Protection Agency classifies ETS as a Class A carcinogen, one that causes cancer in humans.

Fact: ETS causes an estimated 53,000 deaths annually in the US, about two-thirds from heart disease and about 4,000 from lung cancer.



Fact: A statewide poll in the year 2000, found that 83% of all New Jerseyans (smokers and nonsmokers) want smoke-free workplaces.

Fact: Eight hours spent in a smoking environment is the equivalent of smoking a half a pack of cigarettes.

Why make your workplace smoke free?

Offices with smoking employees have:

Higher absenteeism: smokers are absent 50% more than non-smokers

Shorter equipment life: computers

Higher cleaning and maintenance costs: drapes, carpets, furniture

Higher insurance costs: health, life, fire, property.

What can you do to protect yourself and your employees ?

Employers can protect the health of their employees and reduce smoking-related costs by making their workplace smoke-free. Compliance is usually high, especially if employees (smokers and nonsmokers) have developed the policy.



The goal is a completely smoke-free workplace.

Employers can be held responsible for employees who develop disease from secondhand smoke. In one case, a non-smoking waiter was awarded \$100,000. Under the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) customers can also sue.



How to make your workplace smoke-free?

- ◆ Work with staff to draft a clear policy and announce when it will go into effect.
- ◆ Post signs and remove ashtrays to alert employees that a policy exists.
- ◆ Provide information on cessation (quitting) resources.
- ◆ Follow a timetable for implementation. After the policy is announced, allow a transition period to give employees time to adapt to the policy.
- ◆ Evaluate and monitor policy compliance.

