

100% Smoke-Free Hastings & Prince Edward Counties

Impact of Smoke-Free Bylaws

Economic Impact

Without exception, every objective study published that has examined official sales tax data demonstrated that smoke-free legislation had no impact on restaurant, bar, hotel and tourism receipts. Two studies found an initial decline in receipts in the first 1-2 months following enactment of a smoke-free bylaw, but no other evidence of any overall decline in receipts over the long term was found. Many studies, too numerous to mention, have been published that demonstrate the lack of impact on businesses after a smoke-free bylaw has been implemented.

Employment in the Ottawa accommodation and food service sector rose 6.5% from June to October 2001, despite the 3.1% decline in total employment across all sectors. Ottawa's 100% smoke-free bylaw came into effect on August 1st, 2001.

Bankruptcy and insolvency statistics for restaurants in Ottawa were lower from August to November 2001 than they had been for the previous two years. Two tavern, bar or nightclub operations underwent insolvency procedures in 2001, compared with one in 2000 and two in 1999 in the city of Ottawa.

A Massachusetts survey in 1995 reported that nearly 40% of respondents avoided an establishment because of tobacco smoke. Of these respondents, 34% avoided restaurants that allowed smoking and nearly 40% said they avoided bars or clubs that allowed smoking. Only 8.5% of respondents reported avoiding an establishment because smoking was not permitted.

Establishments that do not allow smoking pay less insurance, have lower cleaning costs, have fewer repairs to furniture and equipment, and have a decreased risk of fires.

Impact on Smokers

A California study found that a smoke-free workplace was independently associated with a 14% overall decline in smoking prevalence, a 26% decrease in per capita cigarette consumption, and increased quit rates over time.

A 1997 study in Canada found that the likelihood of being a smoker is reduced where anti-smoking bylaws are widespread, even after age, sex, education, and marital status are controlled for. The study concluded that legislated restrictions are effective not just in protecting non-smokers from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke, but in controlling smoking itself.

