

Smoke-Free Parks

2014 Study Findings

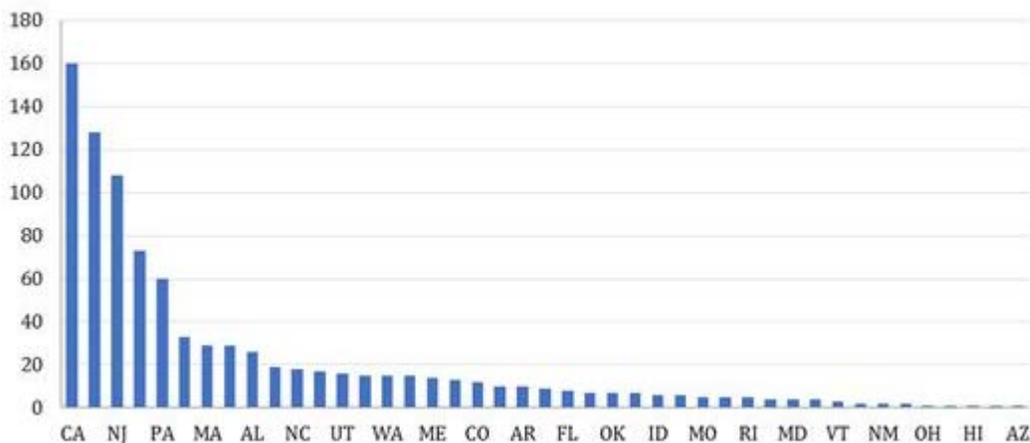
Purpose

Assess health risks and costs associated with smoking in public parks and the feasibility of passing smoke-free parks policies throughout Arizona and in Maricopa County in particular.

Methods

Literature review of health, societal, and fiscal impacts associated with smoking in parks. Analysis of other states' policies and policy processes. Interviews with 11 key informants and stakeholder groups. Statewide public opinion poll.

Jurisdictions with Smoke-Free Parks Policies by State



Key Findings

- Secondhand smoke concentrations in outdoor areas are comparable to those found indoors.
- More than 8 in 10 Arizonans support policies restricting tobacco use in public parks, but a majority feels that there should be designated smoking areas.
- Smoke-free parks policies should be implemented at the local level.
- Policy efforts must include a stakeholder coalition and an education and awareness campaign.

Quick Facts

National Figures:

- Secondhand smoke concentrations in outdoor areas can reach similar levels as those found indoors.¹
- A typical cigarette contains 9-30mg of nicotine.² In young children, 1-2mg may be toxic, causing nausea and vomiting in low doses and neurological symptoms with higher doses.³ A dose of 9.2mg may be lethal in dogs.⁴
- Smoking regulations in public places can significantly reduce both the number of cigarettes consumed by youth and the overall prevalence of tobacco use.⁵
- Tobacco litter can cost cities between \$0.5 million and \$6 million dollars.⁶
- Smoking-related fires cost the U.S. approximately \$6.95 billion in one year.⁷
- Direct medical costs from exposure to SHS among U.S. children exceed \$700 million per year.⁸
- Cigarette butts make up 36% of all visible litter and 25-50% of all collected litter items from roadways and streets.⁹
- Cigarette butts are non-biodegradable and can persist in the environment for 10-15 years.¹⁰
- More than 900 cities and counties nationwide have banned smoking in public parks.

Arizona Figures:

- Asthma is a deadly chronic disease that affects the lives of more than 600,000 Arizonans.¹¹ Tobacco smoke is a trigger for asthma attacks.¹²
- Metro Phoenix is in the top 5 large U.S. cities for asthma-related deaths.¹³
- Among U.S. states, Arizona ranked fourth in 2013 for most wildfires and 10th for most acres burned by wildfires.¹⁴ Cigarettes are a known cause of wildfires.¹⁵

¹ Klepeis, N. E., Ott, W. R., & Switzer, P. (2007). Real-time measurement of outdoor tobacco smoke particles. *Journal of the Air & Waste Management Association*, 57(5), 522-534.

² Novotny, T. E., Hardin, S. N., Hovda, L. R., Novotny, D. J., McLean, M. K., & Khan, S. (2011).

³ Salomon, M. E. (2006). Nicotine and tobacco preparations. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

⁴ Spoo, W. (2008). Nicotine Toxicosis. In J. Bonagura & D. Twedt (Eds.), *Kirk's current veterinary therapy XIV* (pp. 135-138). Saint Louis, MO: Elsevier Health Sciences.

⁵ Wasserman, J., Manning, W. G., Newhouse, J. P., & Winkler, J. D. (1991). The effects of excise taxes and regulations on cigarette smoking. *Journal of Health Economics*, 10(1), 43-64.

⁶ Schneider, J.E., Peterson, N.A., Kiss, N., Ebeid, O., & Doyle, A.S. (2011). Tobacco litter costs and public policy: A framework and methodology for considering the use of fees to offset abatement costs. *Tobacco Control*, 20, i36-i41.

⁷ Leistikow, B.N., Martin, D.C., & Milano, C.E. (2000). Fire injuries, disasters, and costs from cigarettes and cigarette lights: A global overview. *Preventive Medicine*, 31(2), 91-99.

⁸ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (n.d.). *Children's environmental health disparities: Hispanic and Latino American children and secondhand smoke* (No. 100F08032) [Fact sheet]. Retrieved from [http://yosemite.epa.gov/oachp/ochpweb.nsf/content/HD_Hispanic_Smoke.htm/\\$File/HD_Hispanic_Smoke.pdf](http://yosemite.epa.gov/oachp/ochpweb.nsf/content/HD_Hispanic_Smoke.htm/$File/HD_Hispanic_Smoke.pdf)

⁹ Keep America Beautiful, Inc. (2009).

¹⁰ <http://publichealthlawcenter.org/sites/default/files/resources/tclc-guide-cigarette-waste-2014.pdf>

¹¹ <http://www.azasthma.org/asthma-in-az>

¹² http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/impacts_nation/asthmafactsheet.pdf

¹³ <http://azasthma.org/Common/Files/ReportToCommunity.pdf>

¹⁴ http://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/intelligence/2013_Statsumm/fires_acres13.pdf

¹⁵ http://wildlandfire.az.gov/prevention_news.asp