

Scientific research and experience have shown us what works to reduce the dangers of secondhand smoke. Comprehensive smoke-free policies clear the air of cancer-causing chemicals, help people quit tobacco use and reduce health care costs. Because of this, such policies are overwhelmingly supported in Minnesota communities that have gone smoke-free.

## Smoke-free policies significantly improve public health.

### ✓ SMOKE-FREE POLICIES = CLEANER AIR

- Hennepin County's comprehensive smoke-free ordinance helped reduce harmful air pollution in bars and restaurants by 99 percent.<sup>1</sup>
- One month after New York's comprehensive smoke-free law went into effect, harmful indoor air pollution decreased by an average of 84 percent.<sup>2</sup>

### ✓ CLEANER AIR = BETTER HEALTH

- A year after the implementation of a smoke-free law in New York, the number of hospitality workers who experienced eye, nose and throat irritation decreased by 57 percent.<sup>3</sup>
- Between 1988 and 1997, when California implemented smoke-free policies, lung cancer rates dropped significantly more than in other areas of the country. The decline among California men was 1.5 times greater than in other areas. Among California women, lung cancer declined 4.8 percent, while rates increased 13.2 percent elsewhere.<sup>4</sup>

### Smoke-free policies reduce health care costs.

Exposure to secondhand smoke costs Americans more than **\$9.5 billion** a year because of excess

## Smoke-free policies help people quit tobacco use.

- Many studies have shown that smokers whose workplaces are smoke-free are more likely to quit smoking at an increased rate than smokers whose workplaces have weak smoke-free policies or no such policies at all.<sup>5</sup>
- Minnesota's stop-smoking service, QUITPLAN® at Work, experienced three times more inquiries from February to May 2005, during which several Twin Cities smoke-free ordinances were implemented.<sup>6</sup>

## Smoke-free policies are overwhelmingly supported in Minnesota communities that have gone smoke-free.<sup>8,9</sup>

### ✓ IN COMMUNITIES THAT WENT SMOKE-FREE IN 2005 AND 2006:

- Support for smoke-free ordinances now exceeds 70 percent.
- More than eight in ten residents consider secondhand smoke a health hazard.
- More than 70 percent of residents strongly agree that restaurants and bars are healthier.

### Smoke-free policies are popular with voters.

In November 2006, an overwhelming majority of Mankato voters (69 percent) voted to keep Mankato's comprehensive smoke-free ordinance in place.

<sup>1</sup> Griffin T, Bohac D, Schillo BA. Indoor Air Quality in Bars and Restaurants Before and After Implementation of Smoke-Free Ordinances in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties. ClearWay Minnesota™. 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Traverse, MJ, Cummings KM, Hyland, A., et al. Indoor air quality in hospitality venues before and after implementation of a clean indoor air law – western New York, 2003. *MMWR*. 2003.

<sup>3</sup> Farrelly MC, Nonnemaker JM, Chou R, Hyland A, Peterson KK, Bauer UE. Changes in hospitality workers exposure to secondhand smoke following implementation of New York's smoke-free law. *Tab Control*. 2000.

<sup>4</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Declines in lung cancer rates – California, 1988-1997. *MMWR*. 2000.

<sup>5</sup> Brownson RC, Hopkins DP, Wakefield MA. Effects of smoking restrictions in the workplace. *Annual Rev. Public Health*. 2002.

<sup>6</sup> ClearWay Minnesota.

<sup>7</sup> Behan DF, Eriksen MP, Lin Y. Economic Effects of Environmental Tobacco Smoke. Society of Actuaries. 2005.

<sup>8</sup> One Year Later, Support for Smoke-Free Ordinances Remain Strong, Surveys Report [press release]. ClearWay Minnesota. 2006.

<sup>9</sup> Poll: Support for New St. Paul Smoke-Free Law is Strong [press release]. ClearWay Minnesota. 2006.