

Why We Need Smoke-Free/Tobacco Control Policy

Dangers of Secondhand Smoke and Third Hand Smoke

- The 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's Report and the Tobacco Industry (after conviction in federal racketeering charges) state, "There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke."
- The California Air Resources Board (2009) states secondhand smoke is a toxic air contaminant in the same category as diesel exhaust.
- Drifting secondhand smoke triggers asthma attacks, allergies, raises the risk of heart attacks in person with preexisting heart disease and exacerbates chronic health conditions.
- Cardiovascular research (UCSF 2015) shows tobacco and marijuana secondhand smoke likely have similar public health effects.
- Third hand smoke is the residue of tar, nicotine and chemicals left behind by tobacco smoke and can be absorbed through the skin of children and pets.

Dangers of Flavored/Menthol Tobacco

- Flavored/menthol are starter products for kids. such as bubblegum, grape, peach, cotton candy and chocolate. These present new public health threats to adolescents and young adults.
- Flavored/menthol disguise the harshness of tobacco, make the poison go down easier and make it easier to begin smoking and vaping.
- Menthol has anesthetic effects, makes it easier to inhale and increases drug absorption.

Kids and Tobacco/Vaping/Marijuana

- Research has shown that adult smoking greatly influences kids' smoking behavior. When children see adult role models smoking in family environments, like parks, they think that it is an acceptable behavior. Smoke-free environments promote positive community role modeling to reduce kids' smoking rates .
- According to the Mono County Healthy Kids Survey (2017), more kids are using electronic vaping devices than are smoking traditional cigarettes. Marijuana use is 4%-13% among 11th and 12th graders. Perceived harm from marijuana is 65% -86%.

Community Support

- These high levels of support show that smoke-free policies are being responsive to community concern. Mono County survey of 184 unincorporated Mono adults (2016) showed 62% supported a ban on sale of flavored tobacco. Mono County survey of 70 unincorporated Mono businesses (2015) showed that 51 businesses supported an ordinance making smoke free outdoor dining and 20 foot smoke free doorways.
- When asked, "Do you think it would be a burden if all unincorporated Mono businesses stopped selling flavored tobacco," 10/11 unincorporated tobacco retailers said "No difference." (2 do not sell flavored tobacco.) When asked the same question regarding menthol, 9/13 unincorporated tobacco retailers said "No difference."
- Unincorporated Mono support for the Prop 56 \$2 tobacco tax ranged from 51% - 64%.
- Fewer and fewer people smoke. More people expect protection from secondhand smoke.
- People expect to have a right to not be involuntarily exposed from secondhand smoke and to not pass through smoke when they enter a business. Secondhand smoke is irritating and a nuisance.
- Smokers and non-smokers alike do not want second hand smoke while they are eating.
- Sixteen cities/counties have flavored tobacco bans.
- 104 cities counties have smoke free outdoor area/dining policies.

Smoke-Free Policies Work

- There is no legal right to smoke. Therefore, all types of businesses, public and private, are able to create policies which prohibit smoking on their outdoor premises.
- In the interest of public health, and because cannabis is legal, but not harmless, flavoring of smoked marijuana products will be prohibited in Mono County.
- Smoke-free policies are largely self-enforcing with adequate signage and community education.
- The majority of community sporting events are held at school facilities, and all school districts prohibit tobacco/vaping/drugs use on their grounds.
- California state law (SB 977, 2016) prohibits smoking within 250 feet of youth sporting events and within 25 feet of playgrounds (California Health and Safety Code § 104495.).