



Public Health

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEADLINE: Idaho Residents Could Be Better Protected from Secondhand Smoke

LEWISTON, IDAHO - Only 13.6% of Idaho's population is protected from secondhand smoke by local comprehensive smoke-free laws, according to a report that was released Friday June 24th, 2016 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the US Department of Health and Human Services entitled "State and Local Comprehensive Smoke-Free Laws for Worksites, Restaurants, and Bars – United States, 2015."

Idaho is one of 23 States that does not have a statewide comprehensive smoke free law. A comprehensive smoke-free law is recognized by the CDC as a law that requires worksites, restaurants, and bars to be smoke-free. While Idaho does not allow smoking in restaurants and public places, as defined by Senate Bill No. 1283, smoking is still allowed in bars and other worksites.

Smoke-free laws have been shown to substantially improve indoor air quality, reduce secondhand smoke exposure, prevent youth and young adults from ever starting smoking and reduce heart attack and asthma hospitalizations among nonsmokers. Smoke-free laws help those who smoke as well, by increasing their efforts to quit smoking and remain smoke-free. All of these reasons are why localities like Boise, Moscow and Ketchum have passed their own local smoke-free laws.

87.4% of Idaho residents could be better protected from secondhand smoke through comprehensive smoke-free laws at the state or local level. Every smoke-free bill, ordinance and policy enacted helps to reduce that number.

If you are interested in making your city or workplace smoke-free, would like to update your current policies to include e-cigarettes, or would like more information on smoke and tobacco free policies and laws please call 208-799-3100 or visit

www.idahopublichealth.com.