# Nevada Tobacco Control & Smoke-free Coalition

# POLICY PRIORITY: Nevada Clean Indoor Air



### **POLICY RECOMMENDATION**



#### Close the loopholes

in Nevada's Clean Indoor Air Act to protect every employee and visitor of indoor workplaces and public spaces from secondhand smoke including minimum distance requirements from entry/exit spaces.

#### Establish comprehensive smoke-free laws

that will significantly reduce health spending and save lives in Nevada.

#### **CURRENT STATE OF NEVADA**

The Nevada Clean Indoor Air Act<sup>2</sup> (NCIAA) is intended to protect adults and children from secondhand smoke and aerosol from electronic vaping products in most indoor public places.



But exemptions in the law result in **nearly 40%** of Nevada's workforce not receiving the clean indoor air protections most people now take for granted.

Nevada workers have a right to safe working environments. **Nevadans who are unprotected** include those who work in or visit the following places:

- Areas of casinos where minors are prohibited
- Stand-alone bars, taverns, and saloons where minors are prohibited or that don't offer food service
- Retail tobacco stores
- Strip clubs or brothels
- Convention floors at tobacco-related trade shows

### **LEGISLATIVE TRENDS**

Smoke-free hospitality venues across the nation are thriving. Even the President of the American Gaming Association recognizes that **smoke-free gaming "hasn't led to a decrease in business.**"<sup>3</sup>

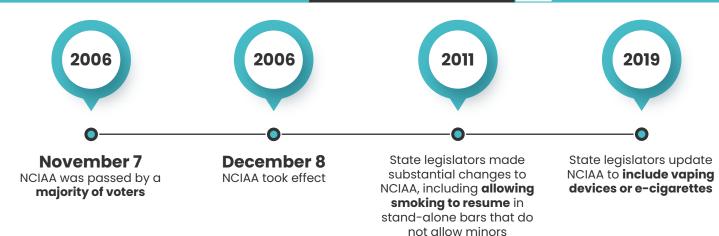
In the U.S., 22 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have laws in effect that **require state-regulated casinos to be smoke-free.** More than 1,150 cities and counties require non-hospitality workplaces, including restaurants and bars, to be 100% smoke-free.<sup>4</sup> The Navajo Nation, the largest enrolled Native American Tribe, has a law **requiring all its casinos to be 100% smoke-free.**<sup>4</sup>

In Nevada and across the U.S., most peoplemore than 84%- do not smoke and prefer a smoke-free environment.<sup>5</sup>

A recent study shows projected effects of a comprehensive law would result in **health care cost savings of \$500 million annually** associated with emergency and in-patient hospital visits linked to coronary, cerebrovascular and respiratory conditions.<sup>1</sup>

## **A BRIEF HISTORY**

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#### THE TOLL OF SECONDHAND SMOKE AND TOBACCO IN NEVADA

Exposure to secondhand smoke from burning and exhaled products causes disease and premature death among nonsmokers. There is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke, and even brief exposure can cause immediate harm.<sup>6</sup>



Secondhand smoke causes an estimated **34,000 heart disease deaths** and more than **7,300 lung cancer deaths** each year in the U.S. Secondhand smoke can increase

stroke risk by 30%.<sup>6</sup>

Ventilation, air filtration and designated smoking areas are **ineffective in protecting against exposure** to smoke and aerosol.<sup>7</sup>



Annual health care costs in Nevada directly caused by smoking are \$1.25 billion, and productivity losses caused by smoking are \$2.6 billion.<sup>8</sup>

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES/LINKS

- 1 NJPH\_SmokingPolicy\_Revised\_2-1.pdf (nphaonline.org)
- 2 https://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-202.html#NRS202Sec2483
- 3 https://www.playnj.com/news/bill-miller-aga-president-nj-gambling-smoking-casinos/58724/
- 4 http://no-smoke.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/mediaordlist.pdf
- 5 https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\_statistics/fact\_sheets/adult\_data/cig\_smoking/index.htm#:~:text=In%202019%2C%20nearly%2014%20of,wi th%20a%20smoking%2Drelated%20disease
- 6 https://www.lung.org/quit-smoking/smoking-facts/health-effects/secondhand-smoke
- 7 https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/about/position%20documents/pd\_environmental-tobacco-smoke-2020-07-1.pdf
- 8 https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/nevada