

# CLEAN AIR & WHY YOU SHOULD CARE



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Oregon's Indoor Clean Air Act (ICAA) creates clean air by not allowing smoking or vaping of tobacco, nicotine or marijuana inside public places or work places. Smoking or vaping is also not allowed within 10 feet of building entrances, building exits, windows that open, air intake vents, or accessibility ramps.<sup>1,2</sup> Indoor clean air laws are effective at reducing the number of youth who start using tobacco, helping people quit tobacco, and reducing tobacco-related diseases and deaths.<sup>3</sup> Indoor clean air laws protect everyone's health in a community, and Oregonians strongly support them.<sup>4</sup>

## People Continue to Be Exposed to Secondhand Smoke

- The ICAA has weaknesses that continue to allow workers and the public to be exposed to secondhand smoke. Smoking is allowed in some hotel and motel rooms, certified smoke shops, and at outdoor seating areas of restaurants, bars, or brew pubs.<sup>1,2</sup>
- Research shows that, during periods of active smoking, outdoor tobacco smoke levels in outdoor cafes and restaurant and bar patios near people smoking is similar to indoor tobacco smoke levels.<sup>4</sup>

## Support for Clean Air in Oregon

**9 in 10**

Oregonians support the ICAA<sup>4</sup>

**8 in 10**

Oregonians agree that all businesses should be smoke and vape free inside<sup>4</sup>

**7 in 10**

Oregonians support making outdoor seating areas of restaurants, bars, and brew pubs tobacco free<sup>4</sup>

## In Oregon:



**Nearly 1 in 5 are exposed to secondhand smoke indoors<sup>4</sup>**

**1 in 2 are exposed to secondhand smoke or vapor from other customers at outdoor seating areas of restaurants, bars, or brew pubs<sup>4</sup>**

## Secondhand Marijuana Smoke is Not Safe

- While retail marijuana is legal, smoking and vaping marijuana in public is illegal.<sup>4</sup>
- Secondhand marijuana smoke has health and safety risks. It has many of the same chemicals as tobacco smoke, including those linked to lung cancer.<sup>6</sup>
- Marijuana smoke has significant amounts of heavy metals like mercury, cadmium, nickel, lead, and chromium.<sup>7</sup>
- One minute of secondhand marijuana smoke reduces blood vessel function to the same extent as tobacco, but the harmful effects on the heart last three times longer. After just one minute of secondhand marijuana smoke exposure, there was a 60% drop in blood vessel function.<sup>8</sup>

## Impacts of Normalization of Marijuana use on Youth

- Marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug in the US. In addition to concerns about the adverse health impact of secondhand marijuana smoke exposure and public safety issues relating to the operation of motor vehicles while under the influence of marijuana, some in the public health community are worried about the potential social impacts on young people due to the normalization of marijuana smoking and vaping in public.
- In Oregon, nearly one in 10 eighth-graders (7%) and one in 5 eleventh graders (21%) reported current marijuana use in 2017.<sup>9</sup>

- Extensive research indicates that youth and young adults who overestimate alcohol and drug use among their peers are more likely to initiate substance use or exhibit greater use than they otherwise would have.
- Risk perception of regular marijuana use (once or twice a week) among 8th and 11th grade Oregon youth dropped between 2015 to 2017 with youth perceiving regular marijuana use to be less harmful than smoking a pack of cigarettes a day, using e-cigarettes daily, binge drinking once or twice a week, consuming alcohol daily, or using prescription drugs not prescribed to them.<sup>9</sup>

## Attempts to Weaken Clean Air Protections

- Since retail marijuana has become legalized, there is a movement to normalize marijuana use, including smoking, everywhere and regulate it like alcohol. As the trend toward normalizing public smoking of marijuana grows, it is important to be aware that more laws will likely be proposed to weaken smoke-free protections and allow for broader use of smoking marijuana in public places and workplaces.<sup>10</sup>
- In Oregon, from 2017-2018, several bills were proposed that would allow public consumption of marijuana at public venues or lounges or at temporary events. If passed, these laws would weaken the clean air protections that currently exist and put both employees and patrons at risk by allowing them

to be exposed to secondhand marijuana smoke or vapor.

- It is important to protect shared breathing spaces, where people are subject to hazardous marijuana secondhand smoke nor vapor, and ensure that marijuana isn't used in ways that would impact the health of others.<sup>10</sup>

## How to Continue Protecting Clean Air in Oregon

- Oregonians want clean air and support expanding Oregon's ICAA protections instead of weakening them. Smoke is smoke – all smoke is harmful.<sup>11</sup>
- Clean air can be protected by passing local and state policies that remove the weaknesses in the ICAA. These policies can apply to all indoor and outdoor workplaces and all types of smoking, including tobacco, nicotine and marijuana smoking and vaping.

## In Oregon:

**Percent of Oregonians who agree that people should be protected from breathing secondhand smoke or vapor<sup>4</sup>**

