

Why Should We Limit Smoking on Tribal Lands?

- ✓ Secondhand smoke is a health hazard that costs US citizens nearly \$10 billion per year.
- ✓ We all have a right to breathe clean air.
- ✓ We need to **protect those especially vulnerable** to secondhand smoke, such as pregnant women, children, and elderly.
- ✓ A tribal resolution and ordinance limiting smoking in and around tribal buildings and casinos will not impact tribal revenue; **Studies examining revenues and patronage of bars and restaurants have found that fears of lost profits after smoke-free ordinances are not scientifically supported.**
- ✓ **Secondhand smoke is a leading cause of preventable disease, illness, and death** and is directly linked to lung cancer and heart disease in adults.
- ✓ Children who breathe secondhand smoke are more likely to experience ear infections, decreased lung capacity, decreased cognitive function, experience more frequent trips to the hospital, and are at **increase risk for sudden infant death syndrome.**
- ✓ Secondhand smoke is responsible for 8,000 to 26,000 **new cases of asthma**, and 150,000 to 300,000 new cases of bronchitis and pneumonia each year.
- ✓ A smoke-free resolution or ordinance will protect many tribal employees, children, and adult tribal members from secondhand smoke, improving health and decreasing sick days.
- ✓ Healthier people means less IHS and tribal health department funding being spent to treat secondhand smoke related illnesses.
- ✓ Our tribal governments can demonstrate their leadership in being **proactive** to protect the health of its tribal members.
- ✓ States and local governments are beginning to pass smoke-free ordinances around the nation. Our tribal governments **should not be the last to pass laws protecting the indoor air quality of their people.**
- ✓ **If children are sacred, shouldn't their air be?**

