

Before a smoking ban

The facts behind the unintended consequences of a smoking ban

Social Impact

Nationwide, there is an average 13.44% increase in the number of DUI fatalities in communities after enacting a smoking ban (Adams and Cotti 2008).

According to NIAAA, between 80 and 95 percent of alcoholics smoke cigarettes; a rate that is three times higher than among the population as a whole. Approximately 70 percent of alcoholics are *heavy* smokers (i.e., smoke more than one pack of cigarettes per day), compared with 10 percent of the general population (NIAAA 1998).

Economic Impact

Bars in areas with a smoking ban suffer a loss of customers, and therefore revenue. (Adams and Cotti 2007; Adda et al. 2007)

As a result, employment at bars decreases. (Adams and Cotti 2007).

Other businesses, unrelated to bars and restaurants in the area covered by smoking bans suffer, while those in surrounding communities without a smoking ban flourish. (McCormick-Jenkins 2007)

The city of Covington has seen a 9.1% increase in tax revenue since the Ohio smoking ban went into effect, more than the 3% originally forecast for the same time period.

While some push for the ban in Northern Kentucky, Ohio now seeks to roll back their ban.

Property Rights

While most in favor of a smoking ban do not care about property rights, there is an argument to be made that the owner of the establishment has the right to conduct business as they so choose.

Any reasonable proposal should, however, address this issue as well.

Resolution

To balance all factors involved, a compromise must be found. A proposal to require consumer labeling of all establishments which allow indoor smoking, on all exits and entrances, has so far been the leading compromise to address all of the factors involved. Combined with a proposal to allow those working in smoking establishments to escape, and preventing the state from forcing employees to take employment from a smoking establishment through modification of employment laws, this solution addresses all answerable problems allegedly addressed by those on both sides of the issue.

As usual, the extreme positions are not the best solutions. Facts and compromise provide a better solution to the problem.

The facts behind the unintended consequences of a smoking ban

Please visit <http://www.nkychoice.com/> for more information about the proposed compromise.