

Fact Sheet on Second-Hand Smoke in Outdoor Spaces

- A groundbreaking study on second-hand smoke on Ottawa restaurant and bar patios, conducted in August 2010, revealed elevated, hazardous levels of small particulate matter when second-hand smoke was present, even in non-smoking sections and under windy conditions.¹
- Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in Ontario. It kills 13,000 Ontario residents annually and costs the health care system an estimated \$1.6 billion each year.²
- The World Health Organization says that there is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke.³
- Second-hand smoke contains more than 4,000 chemicals, 69 of which are known to cause cancer.⁴
- Exposure to second-hand smoke outdoors is just as dangerous as indoor exposure, especially for children, the elderly, and people with heart disease, cancer, asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).
- Ottawa lags far behind a growing list of Canadian communities that prohibit smoking on patios (*e.g.*, Vancouver, Victoria, Saskatoon, and Kingston, in addition to all of Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Alberta and the Yukon), and in parks and/or playgrounds (*e.g.*, Vancouver, Whistler, Calgary, Saskatoon, Toronto, Belleville, Barrie, Cornwall, Peterborough, Thunder Bay and 16 other Ontario communities). New York City is also adopting an outdoor smoke-free bylaw.
- Ottawa residents, workers and tourists deserve equal protection from second-hand smoke.

¹ Ottawa Council on Smoking and Health. News Release. August 25, 2010. Hazardous Levels of Tobacco Smoke Measured on Restaurant and Bar Patios in Ottawa.

<http://www.smokefreeottawa.com/2006-en/pdfs/newsConferenceRelease.pdf>

² Tobacco Strategy Advisory Group. Building On Our Gains, Taking Action Now: Ontario's Tobacco Control Strategy for 2011-2016. October 18, 2010. <http://www.mhp.gov.on.ca/en/smoke-free/TSAG%20Report.pdf>

³ World Health Organization. News Release. May 29, 2007. Only 100% smoke-free environments adequately protect from dangers of second-hand smoke. New WHO policy recommendations point to extensive evidence.

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2007/pr26/en/index.html>

⁴ U.S. Department of Health Human Services, National Cancer Institute. October 2001. Smoking and Tobacco Control Monograph 13. Risks Associated with Smoking Cigarettes with Low-Machine Measured Yields of Tar and Nicotine. http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/tcrb/monographs/13/m13_complete.pdf