



Secondhand Smoke Air Pollution in Pennsylvania Hospitality Venues

Philadelphia and Scranton

- In 2006, the Pennsylvania Alliance to Control Tobacco (PACT) commissioned a study to assess the indoor air quality of Pennsylvania's hospitality industry.
- The scientific study was conducted by James Repace, MSc, of Repace Associates, Inc., a secondhand smoke consulting firm based in Bowie, Maryland.
- In January of 2007, the cities of Philadelphia and Scranton implemented clean indoor air ordinances. The ordinances include the majority of workplaces in Philadelphia and Scranton, including restaurants and bars.
- The cities of Philadelphia and Scranton's indoor air quality were assessed before and after the clean indoor air ordinance went into effect.
- Hospitality venues in Philadelphia and Scranton were assessed using air pollution monitors. The venues consisted of restaurants, bars, and a bowling alley. The testing took place between September 2006 and February 2007.
- At each of the sites, measurements were taken of a pollutant that is known to increase the risk or respiratory disease, cancer, heart disease, and stroke. The pollutant is called Respirable Particle Air Pollution (RSP). RSP is fine particle pollution that can be inhaled and cause damage to lung tissue.
- Respirable Particle Air Pollution (RSP) can cause aggravated asthma, chronic bronchitis, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, heart attack, and premature death.
- At each of the hospitality venues, several factors were assessed including:
 - Average concentration of pollutants
 - Smoker density (the percentage of patrons actively smoking)
 - Air exchange rate
 - Estimate of secondhand smoke





- The studies of the Philadelphia and Scranton hospitality venues before and after the clean indoor air ordinances were implemented indicated an 87% drop in RSP.
- The study revealed that, before the ordinances, the average prevalence of active smoking (burning cigarettes) was just 4% of observed patrons in these establishments. Despite this low-smoking prevalence, all venues were heavily polluted. (This helps show how pervasive cigarette smoke can be, as just a handful of burning cigarettes can make it seem like everyone in the entire establishment is smoking.)
- With these results, we now have scientific proof that the law is doing what it was intended to do – give all employees the right to breathe clean air wherever they work.
- It is our hope that this study will give the Pennsylvania State Legislature more scientific evidence on the benefits of adopting a comprehensive clean indoor air law.

