

# FACT SHEET

# Impact of Laramie's Smokefree Ordinance

## Laramie's Smokefree Ordinance

On April 6, 2005, Laramie became the first Wyoming community to implement a smokefree policy in all buildings accessible to the public, including restaurants and bars (Ordinance 1650).<sup>1</sup>

## Social Assessment of Laramie's Smokefree Ordinance

Results from three surveys conducted in Laramie show that for *every* variable, support for the ordinance over time either improved or showed no significant change.<sup>2</sup>

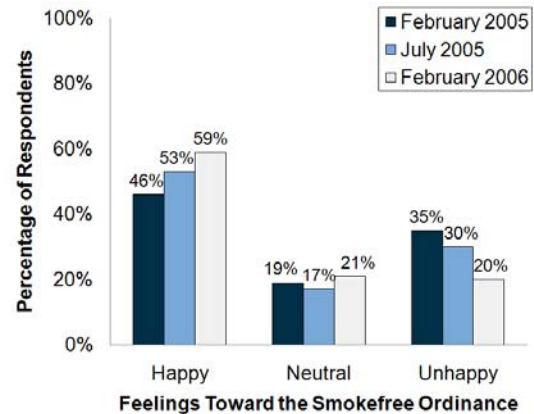
Significant Changes in Laramie Residents' Support for Ordinance 1650 from 2005 to 2006<sup>2</sup>

Percentage point increase	Among respondents who...
14%	Thought restaurants should be completely smokefree
14%	Thought bars should be completely smokefree
13%	Were "happy" the smokefree ordinance passed
13%	Thought the ordinance would have a positive impact on Laramie's health
13%	Felt that Laramie residents should have the "right to smokefree air in public businesses"
12%	Would choose a restaurant that was totally nonsmoking over a restaurant that had designated smoking areas or that allowed smoking in all areas

The majority of people surveyed in 2006 (59%) were happy about the ordinance.

- From February 2005 to February 2006, the percentage of people who were *unhappy* with the ordinance decreased by 15 percentage points, and the percentage of people who were *happy* with the ordinance increased by 13 percentage points.<sup>2</sup>

Change in Happiness about Laramie's Smokefree Ordinance<sup>2</sup>



## Environmental Assessment of Laramie's Smokefree Ordinance

Respirable suspended particles smaller than 2.5 microns in diameter are found in large quantities in cigarette smoke, are easily inhaled deeply into the lungs, and are associated with pulmonary and cardiovascular disease and mortality.<sup>3</sup> The concentration of these particles, a measure of indoor air quality, was similar between Laramie and Cheyenne *before* Laramie's ordinance went into effect (178 mg/m<sup>3</sup> in Laramie vs. 197 mg/m<sup>3</sup> in Cheyenne\*).<sup>4</sup>

\*Cheyenne was not smokefree at the time of the study.

### WYSAC Fact Sheet: Impact of Laramie's Smokefree Ordinance

Corresponding to WYSAC Issue Brief #2008-05  
Produced for the Wyoming Dept. of Health  
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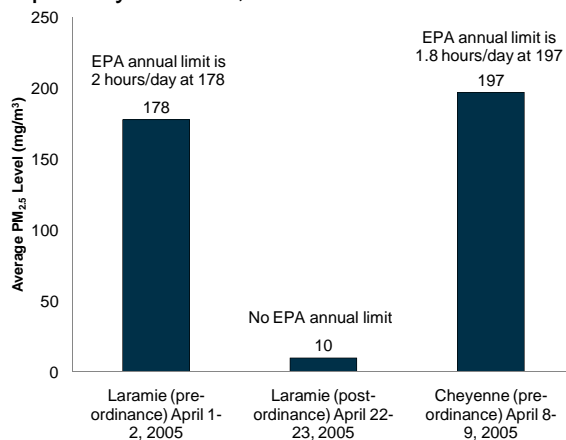
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Immediately after the smokefree ordinance's implementation, Laramie's indoor air quality improved.<sup>4</sup>

- Laramie's concentration of respirable suspended particles smaller than 2.5 microns had significantly decreased (from 178 mg/m<sup>3</sup> to 10 mg/m<sup>3</sup>).<sup>4</sup>
- This change is a decrease of 94%.<sup>4</sup>
- After the ordinance, Laramie's air quality was 20 times better, on average, than the air quality in Cheyenne (before Cheyenne implemented a smokefree ordinance).<sup>4</sup>

Laramie and Cheyenne Indoor Air Quality at Hospitality Venues, 2005<sup>4</sup>



One Laramie study, in which nonsmoking subjects visited bars and a bowling alley both before and after the implementation of the smokefree ordinance, showed the following results.

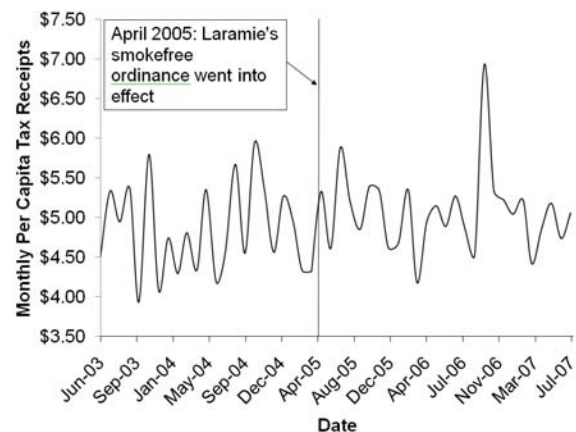
- Cotinine absorption (a biological marker for exposure to secondhand smoke) dropped by 89% after the smokefree ordinance went into effect.<sup>5</sup>
- Median cotinine levels dropped from 9 ng/ml to 1 ng/ml.<sup>5</sup>

## Economic Assessment of Laramie's Smokefree Ordinance

Using state sales tax receipts as reported by the Wyoming Department of Revenue, WYSAC conducted an economic impact study that accounted for time trends, inflation, local and statewide economic conditions, and seasonality.<sup>6</sup>

- The smokefree ordinance had no significant net economic impact, either positive or negative, on Laramie restaurants and bars.<sup>6</sup>
- Revenues significantly differed by season, both before and after implementation of the ordinance.<sup>6</sup> Specifically, restaurant and bar sales were consistently lower in the summer, whereas sales were consistently higher in the spring and fall.<sup>6</sup>

Albany County Restaurant and Bar Activity (per capita), June 2003–July 2007<sup>7</sup>



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