Existence of and Public Support for Smokefree Policies and Laws

Summary
The Wyoming Tobacco Prevention and Control Program (TPCP) shares a goal with the federal tobacco prevention and control program: decrease exposure to secondhand smoke (Starr, et al., 2005). The preponderance of Wyoming adults agree with the statement, “Secondhand smoke is harmful to one’s health.” Further, 78% of Wyoming adults think the indoor areas of restaurants should be smokefree, and 79% think that indoor work areas should be smokefree (WYSAC, 2014). Enactment, implementation, and enforcement of smokefree policies and laws protect the public from the dangers of secondhand smoke.

Wyoming has several local smokefree laws of varying strengths, the first of which went into effect in 2005. Yet, 64% of Wyoming residents are not covered by a smokefree law, making them vulnerable to secondhand smoke in public places.

By increasing the number of smokefree policies and laws in Wyoming, more residents will live, dine, and work in smokefree environments. In time, the associated decrease in their exposure to carcinogens and other toxins should lead to a decrease in tobacco-attributable mortality and morbidity (Starr, et al., 2005).
Adults Have Negative Attitudes toward Secondhand Smoke

In 2012, most Wyoming adults had negative attitudes toward secondhand smoke (Table 1; WYSAC, 2014). In Wyoming, 97% of adults reported that breathing smoke from other people’s tobacco products was very (64%) or somewhat (32%) harmful to one’s health (WYSAC, 2014). In 2012, nationwide, 66% of adults believed that breathing smoke from other people’s tobacco products was very harmful (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2013).

Smokefree Rules in the Home

Fewer than one in five adults in Wyoming allow smoking in their homes. Between 2010 and 2012, the percentage of respondents who reported they allow smoking inside their home decreased from 18% to 13% (WYSAC, 2014). In 2010, the U.S. average was 18% (CDC, 2013).

Tobacco-Free Policies: Wyoming Secondary Schools

A school is considered tobacco-free when there is a policy that specifically prohibits the use of all types of tobacco (including cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, cigars, and pipes, but not necessarily electronic nicotine delivery systems [ENDS]) by all people (all students, faculty/staff, and visitors) at all times (including during non-school hours) and in all places (including school-sponsored events held off campus). In 2014, 50% of Wyoming secondary schools had comprehensive tobacco-free policies (Demissie et al., 2015).

Table 1: Wyoming Adults Have Negative Attitudes about Secondhand Smoke

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reported Attitude</th>
<th>WY Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very or somewhat likely to ask a stranger not to smoke around them if they could not move away from the smoke</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breathing smoke from other people's tobacco products is very or somewhat harmful to one's health.</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smokefree policies for indoor or outdoor public places should be strictly enforced.</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WYSAC, 2014.

WYOMING SURVEY & ANALYSIS CENTER
Support for Smokefree Indoor Areas of Workplaces, Restaurants, and Bars

Support for smokefree indoor areas of restaurants and bars, casinos, or clubs has significantly increased through 2012 (Figure 1). The majority of Wyoming adults (79%) reported that smoking should never be allowed in indoor workplaces, an increase from 70% in 2002. Support for eliminating secondhand smoke from indoor dining areas of restaurants grew from 57% of Wyoming adults in 2002 to 78% in 2012. Similarly, support for eliminating secondhand smoke from indoor areas in bars, casinos, or clubs grew from 29% of Wyoming adults in 2004 to 47% in 2012. For comparison, the 2010 national estimates for support for smokefree indoor areas in these venues are listed in Table 2 (King, Dube, & Tynan, 2013).

Table 2: High Support for Variety of Smokefree Indoor Venues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Percentage of U.S. Adults Who Support Smokefree Indoor Areas in the Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Workplaces</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restaurants</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bars, Casinos, or Clubs</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: King et al., 2013.

Figure 1: Increase in Support for Smokefree Indoor Areas

Percentage of Wyoming adults who support smokefree venues, 2004-2012

Source: WYSAC, 2014.

1 The 2002 ATS did not have an item about support for smokefree indoor areas of bars, casinos, and clubs.
Secondhand Smoke in the Workplace

The proportion of Wyoming adults working indoors who are protected by smokefree polices at indoor workplaces increased slightly from 90% in 2010 to 91% in 2012. However, without consideration for workplace policies, 18% of Wyoming adults who work indoors reported exposure to secondhand smoke while at work during the previous week (WYSAC, 2014).

Among Wyoming workplaces with more than 25 employees, the presence of smokefree policies varies by field (Table 3). Comprehensive (30%) and indoor (48%) smokefree policies are most common in the field of education/government. Of the 640 surveyed workplaces, 13% had a written comprehensive smokefree policy; 24% had an indoor smokefree policy (WYSAC, 2011).

Table 3: Wyoming Lacks Comprehensive Smokefree Policies in Workplaces

Comprehensive and indoor policies in Wyoming workplaces, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Percentage with Comprehensive Policy</th>
<th>Percentage with Indoor Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education/Government</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare/Service</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail/Food</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation/Construction</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining/Petroleum/Energy</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Comprehensive smokefree policies are those that prohibit smoking in all places and also have been written into workplace official policies.

Source: WYSAC, 2011.

WYOMING SURVEY & ANALYSIS CENTER
Smokefree Indoor Air Laws: Wyoming and Across the Nation

As of May 2016, Wyoming did not have a statewide smokefree indoor air law. However, every one of the six states bordering Wyoming had some sort of statewide smokefree indoor air law (CDC, 2016). Five of the six bordering states have a smokefree indoor air law that covers three locations (private workplaces, restaurants, and bars; Figure 2).

Figure 2: Wyoming Only State in Region Without a Statewide Smokefree Indoor Air Law

Smokefree indoor air laws across the nation

Note: Locations are private workplaces, restaurants, and bars.
Source: CDC, 2016.

WYOMING SURVEY & ANALYSIS CENTER
Smokefree Indoor Air Laws in Wyoming

Since the city of Laramie enacted Wyoming’s first smokefree indoor air law in 2005, the number and coverage of Wyoming’s smokefree indoor air laws has increased (Figure 3)\(^2\). The current laws throughout Wyoming differ with regard to covering bars. Six cities in Wyoming have comprehensive smokefree indoor air laws. Three additional laws cover workplaces and restaurants, but not bars. \(^3\)

Casper enacted a comprehensive smokefree indoor air law in 2012, exempted bars in 2013, and amended the law in 2015 to make it comprehensive again (Casper Municipal Code, 2015; Richards, 2015).

**Figure 3: Increasing Number of Smokefree Indoor Air Laws in Wyoming**

Percentage of Wyoming population covered by smokefree indoor air laws

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\(^2\) In 2009, the Teton County Board of Health passed the Teton District Smokefree Air Rule of 2009. In 2011, this law was overturned by a district judge (Huelsmann, 2011).

\(^3\) A law in Lyman allows business owners to opt out by prominently displaying signs identifying the business as a smoking establishment (Lyman Municipal Code, 2011). Without data about the decisions of all individual business owners in Lyman, WYSAC does not include Lyman residents as covered by a smokefree indoor air law.
References
