



Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights celebrates the nearly 800 smokefree gaming facilities nationwide. With growing demand, this trend to protect employee and patrons is inevitable.

## EMPLOYEE & PATRON HEALTH

A recent report from the American Gaming Association entitled *Gaming Careers: Gateway to the Middle Class*, highlighted protecting customers and maintaining the integrity of games as a cornerstone of the casino gaming industry. Protecting customers' personal and financial information is certainly a valuable goal. And so is protecting their health and the health of employees that work in and around casinos and gambling venues.



*The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that secondhand smoke causes nearly*

**34,000** heart disease deaths and more than

**7,300** lung cancer deaths each year in the U.S.

Secondhand smoke increases the risk for stroke by **20-30%**



Nonsmokers who are exposed to secondhand smoke at work increase their risk of developing heart disease by **25-30%**

The American Gaming Association report also notes that minorities make up 45% of gaming employees in the United States. Research shows that nearly 40% of African American adults aged 20 and older and almost a quarter of Hispanic American adults aged 20 and older—the age many employees begin working in casinos—are exposed to secondhand smoke.

Studies have clearly linked exposure to secondhand smoke with cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke. According to the American Heart Association, cardiovascular disease exacts a disproportionate toll on many racial and ethnic groups that have higher rates of cardiovascular disease and its risk factors—such as working in smoke-filled environments.

This overlap is not a mere coincidence. The fact that employee and patron health is threatened by the presence of secondhand smoke signals the need for casinos and gambling venues to provide smokefree workplaces and gaming environments.

# GAMING COMPETITION



Regional gaming competition, driving distance, weather and socioeconomic conditions all have a significant impact on casino revenue in any market.



*That list does not include smokefree policies and laws — and for good reason.*

THERE ARE **NEARLY 800** SMOKEFREE CASINOS and other gambling venues across the United States.

Casino executives and policymakers in more than 20 states, several cities and a growing number of sovereign Native American Tribes have made a progressive step forward and required gaming venues to be 100% smokefree indoors.

## MILLENNIALS: THE FUTURE OF GAMING

Millennials now number 83.1 million and represent more than one-quarter of the population in the United States, according to recent U.S. Census Bureau data.

Millennials have grown up with—and now expect—smokefree environments as the norm in workplaces, schools, homes, and social entertainment settings like casinos. The smoking rate among Millennials is very low, and they expect companies to be socially responsible, which includes providing safe, healthy work environments for employees and patrons.



*The future of gaming means adapting to Millennial culture, and that culture includes smokefree gaming and amenities.*

**82%**

*An overwhelming majority of Americans — more than 82% — are nonsmokers.*

People who come to casinos for work or to play are not coming for the secondhand smoke, especially Millennials.

With more than **one-third** of the gaming workforce being 30 years of age or younger, casinos have a particular responsibility to address the unique needs and desires of Millennials, including their expectation of smokefree work and entertainment venues.

# CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Casinos across the country have affirmed their commitment to being responsible corporate and community citizens by protecting the environment (Atlantis Casino), maintaining clean and healthy environments (MGM Resorts International), and improving the quality of life in communities (Boyd Gaming).



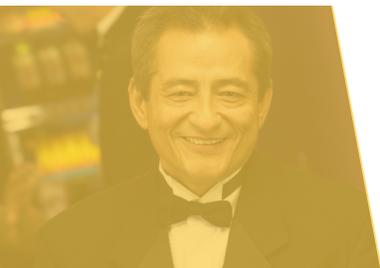
According to the American Gaming Association, gaming supports 1.7 million jobs and is on pace to add more than 62,000 well-paying jobs over the next decade. In addition to the opportunities to pursue ongoing education and move up the career ladder, casinos, and other gambling venues should provide safe workplaces, which means ensuring employees are not exposed to secondhand smoke.

***There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, so as the gaming industry continues to create more jobs and more opportunities, it should also be creating healthy, smokefree environments that translate into healthier workforces and happier patrons.***

## THERE ARE NO SHORTCUTS TO SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

It can be tempting to seek out simple or convenient solutions to issues like smokefree workplaces, but the fact of the matter is there are no shortcuts to social responsibility. **Every prominent health agency affirms that ventilation systems, smoking rooms, and smoking sections do not address the health hazards of exposure to secondhand smoke.**

- The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) strongly recommends that all employers—including casinos—adopt a smokefree workplace policy and that electronic smoking devices should not be used in smokefree spaces.
- The American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) affirms that indoor air quality for human occupancy means a smokefree environment and that HVAC systems and air cleaning technologies do not address the health hazards of secondhand smoke.



Breathing secondhand smoke has immediate harmful effects on the cardiovascular system, and for corporations seeking to have a long-term positive impact on employees, patrons, and communities, any and all harmful elements have to be eliminated. Fortunately, there is a proven solution that is working in nearly 800 casinos and gambling venues across the country. Smokefree casinos are thriving in more than a third of the country and underscoring an unwavering commitment to providing safe and healthy environments for employees and patrons.

# SMOKEFREE CASINO

## SUCSESSES & STRATEGIES

*"The only thing harder than knowing the right thing to do...is to actually do the right thing." - Peter Drucker*

There is ample evidence to support the need for casinos to adopt smokefree policies and protect the health of employees. Making the decision can be difficult, particularly in these uncertain economic times, but there are several smokefree casinos throughout the country that are successfully operating.

On April 22, 2015, New Orleans implemented a smokefree workplace ordinance to protect the health of the city's huge hospitality workforce—in bars, hotels, and casinos. Harrah's Casino, the only casino within the New Orleans city limit, went smokefree—literally overnight. Granted, there was planning and preparation required to ensure the transition went smoothly, but the casino has continued to thrive since going smokefree.

It's important to note how casinos like Harrah's in New Orleans; Hollywood Casino in Columbus, Ohio; and the MGM National Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland have been able to remain competitive with smokefree properties. The land-based Hollywood casino took a thoughtful approach to design and placement of convenient, easy to maintain outdoor smoking areas located right off of the gaming floor.

In fact, all of Ohio's gambling venues are 100% smokefree indoors AND successfully compete with all casinos and gambling venues in their regional markets, including those without smokefree policies. Ohio's smokefree casinos are being credited for such a significant decline in Indiana's gaming revenue (Ohio up 36%, Indiana down 11%) that the state legislature has allowed Indiana casinos to become land-based. With outdoor smoking areas off of the gaming floor, Ohio casinos are welcoming to customers—smokers and non-smokers alike—while protecting the health of their workforce and the general public.

### OUTDOOR SMOKING PATIO TIPS:

One of our goals is to help casinos and gambling venues make a seamless and smooth transition to being smokefree. Since the primary goal of smokefree policies and laws is worker health and safety, we have to ensure that any solution, including outdoor smoking patios with gaming, protect workers from exposure to secondhand smoke. Here are some quick tips to help you roll out your outdoor patio:

- Ensure no one is required to work on a smoking patio (no bar, no drink service, non-security staff, no live dealer table games)
- Ensure double doors with hallway to keep smoke from coming into the building
- Outdoors means outdoors. No garage doors, partial walls, or other mechanisms that effectively enclose the outdoor area
- Prohibit smoking during cleaning and maintenance

For more information on how to implement smokefree gaming at your property or to learn more about the benefits of smokefree casinos, visit

[www.smokefreecasinos.org](http://www.smokefreecasinos.org)

or contact us at:

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