

# SMOKEFREE POLICIES

## AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



**Exposure to secondhand smoke is a public health *and* social justice issue.** The fact is that certain communities and populations in Atlanta are more severely affected by secondhand smoke exposure than others, and many of those individuals are more likely to suffer from health disparities and less likely to be able to access health care.



**50% (1.3 MILLION)**

of adults in Georgia with an annual household income of less than \$30,000 were exposed to secondhand smoke



**HOSPITALITY WORKERS AND ENTERTAINERS HAVE THE HIGHEST RATES OF EXPOSURE TO SECONDHAND SMOKE IN THE WORKPLACE.**



Only **43%** of food preparation and service occupation workers are covered by smoke-free policies, while **75%** of white-collar workers are afforded this protection.



Exposure to secondhand smoke in the workplace also varies widely by race and ethnicity. **Over half of non-Hispanic Black women were exposed to secondhand smoke compared to about 30% of non-Hispanic White and Hispanic women.**

Latinos/Hispanics are the largest segment of the population in the hospitality industry and make up 22% of the industry's total workforce.



**According to the Centers for Disease Control, heart disease, stroke, and cancer are among the leading causes of death in African-Americans and Hispanics/Latinos in the U.S.** Passage of smoke-free workplace ordinances is associated with lower rates of death and disease from heart attacks, heart disease and strokes among workers.

**There is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke.** Separating smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the air, and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke.

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4. "Adult Tobacco Use in Georgia: 2016 Data Summary." Georgia Department of Public Health, 2016. Retrieved June 27, 2017 from <https://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/2016%20Adult%20Tobacco%20Use%20in%20Georgia.pdf>
5. World Health Organization (WHO). Protection from Exposure to Secondhand Tobacco Smoke: Policy Recommendations. WHO Press, 2007. Available at [http://www.who.int/tobacco/resources/publications/wntd/2007/pol\\_recommendations/en/](http://www.who.int/tobacco/resources/publications/wntd/2007/pol_recommendations/en/).