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HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**For additional information contact:**

**Lisa LaPlante at (616) 632-7182 or [Lisa.LaPlante@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:Lisa.LaPlante@kentcountymi.gov)**

## **Smoke Free Law Shows Little Impact on Bar & Restaurant Revenue Statewide**

GRAND RAPIDS -- Michigan's ban on smoking in bars and restaurants has not had a significant impact on sales at Michigan bars and restaurants, according to a study commissioned by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). The Dr. Ron Davis Smoke-Free Air Law went into effect May 1, 2010.

The MDCH released a study today analyzing the economic effects of the ban. The study, completed by Professor Helen Levy, Ph.D. from the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research, compiled data from the Michigan Department of Treasury based on bar and restaurant sales, as well as Keno sales. Dr. Levy evaluated data over a five year period (from 2006 to 2011).

"It has long been the position of the Kent County Health Department that this ban would be beneficial to not only to customers at bars and restaurants who were often exposed to second hand smoke, but also to the employees of these establishments," said Cathy Raevsky, Administrative Health Officer for the Kent County Health Department. "The law is working to protect citizens from dangerous secondhand smoke, a major contributor to respiratory and cardiovascular illness."

The data shows there had been a drop-off in revenue in the two years leading up to the ban, but revenue had recovered in the following 13 months. The study found no overall significant impact on spending statewide, but there have been establishments that have reported being adversely affected by the ban. Statewide, cigarette tax collection continues to trend downward. "We commend Michigan bars and restaurants for their support in transitioning to a smoke-free environment, as this law has also drastically improved the air quality in these establishments," said James K. Haveman, Director of the MDCH. "There is no question that Michiganders have a healthier environment because of this important piece of legislation."

Last October, a report on air monitoring studies conducted before and after the law took effect showed a 93% reduction in the level of pollutants in Kent County restaurants. In that study, Field Investigators conducted air monitoring studies in six Grand Rapids venues. One year later, levels of secondhand smoke pollutants dropped by an average of 93%.

For more information about the Dr. Ron Davis Smoke-Free Air Law, visit [www.michigan.gov/smokefreelaw](http://www.michigan.gov/smokefreelaw).

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit [www.accesskent.com/health](http://www.accesskent.com/health).

700 FULLER AVE. NE, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503