



Association Of State And Territorial Health Officials
2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 450 | Arlington, Virginia 22202
(202) 371-9090 | www.astho.org

ASTHO's Smoke-free Meetings Resolution

Policy:

ASTHO meetings and conferences will be held in smoke-free states, cities or facilities.

Rationale:

Numerous studies have found that tobacco smoke is a major contributor to indoor air pollution. The Surgeon General has confirmed that breathing secondhand smoke (also known as environmental tobacco smoke) is a cause of disease in healthy nonsmokers, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and lung cancer. The Public Health Service's National Toxicology Program has listed secondhand smoke as a known carcinogen. Secondhand smoke causes approximately 3,400 lung cancer deaths and 22,700 – 69,600 heart disease deaths in adult nonsmokers in the United States each year. Secondhand smoke is particularly hazardous to elderly people, individuals with cardiovascular disease, and individuals with impaired respiratory function, including asthmatics and those with obstructive airway disease.

State and local governments throughout the country have successfully passed smoke-free air laws to protect people against the harmful effects of secondhand smoke. States, cities, and businesses that have adopted smoke-free air legislation should be rewarded with increased convention and tourism business. The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) should use its market clout and expend its financial resources in cities that have adopted a comprehensive smoke-free air law (including all restaurants, bars and stand-alone bars). ASTHO will endeavor to hold all meetings only in smoke-free states or cities and if that is not feasible, ASTHO will hold the meeting in a smoke-free facility. By doing so, ASTHO demonstrates its mission of supporting sound public health policy and supports those states, cities, and businesses that have enacted smoke-free legislation.