



Tool #5

Question: How do we prepare the coalition members and the community about the importance of a smoke-free environments regulation? What tobacco control resources are available for state and national data?

Answer: Get the facts and understand the issue. Be prepared with good resources for state and national data.

There is a wealth of factual information about secondhand smoke, its risks to health. There is also helpful information about why the creation of smoke-free environments, an issue that appears so eminently reasonable, is fraught with political, economic and societal pitfalls. Core team members and coalition members all come to the table with various motives and interests in smoke-free environments, as well as various expertises. A well-versed coalition whose members have a solid knowledge base about the health risks, political, economic and social issues involving secondhand smoke and smoke-free environments is best prepared to educate the community and develop a strategy for introducing a regulation. Following are a few good fact sheets (there are many available) and web site references and other resources for state and national data.

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