

**For Immediate Release  
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### Washtenaw County Celebrate Its First Year as a Smoke Free County

On November 6, 2002, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners passed the strongest statewide smoking regulation in the State of Michigan. Washtenaw County was the second county in Michigan to pass a law that protects workers and the public from second hand smoke. Since then, other counties such as Genesee and Marquette have taken on the task of becoming smoke free.

February 19, 2004 will mark the one year anniversary of the implementation of the Washtenaw County Clean Indoor Air Regulation. The regulation prohibits smoking in public and private worksites and public places in Washtenaw County. The regulation was established to protect individuals from exposure to secondhand smoke and was based on a variety of studies that indicate tobacco smoke, including secondhand smoke, is a major contributor to indoor air pollution and many preventable diseases such as cancer, heart disease, stroke and respiratory illnesses.

A majority of county businesses and public places had already established smoke free policies prior to the regulation, so implementation and compliance has been a relatively positive experience. The regulation does exclude bars and restaurants but with the assistance of the Environmental Health Division, a brochure, titled "Restaurants Smoking Regulations," was developed to promote and encourage the idea of becoming smoke free. Since implementation of the Clean Indoor Air Regulation, the Washtenaw County Public Health Department has corresponded with 100 plus businesses and individuals in providing a variety of materials and information relating to clean indoor air.

Washtenaw County residents and businesses can access a copy of the Clean Indoor Air Regulation and other related resources on the Public Health web page at [www.ewashtenaw.org](http://www.ewashtenaw.org). They may also contact DeBorah Borden, the Tobacco Reduction Coordinator at (734) 544-6874 or via email at [bordend@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:bordend@ewashtenaw.org) for questions or concerns regarding the regulation. The Michigan Smokers Quit Kits are also available to individuals interested in quitting smoking.