

**Winnebago County Board of Health
Policy Statement on Secondhand Smoke in Public Places**

The Winnebago County Board of Health requests that all municipal governments in Winnebago County enact Clean Indoor Air ordinances that effectively eliminate or minimize exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke in all areas of public accommodation, and offer our assistance and support in these efforts.

*Policy Statement – Secondhand Smoke
Adopted by the Board of Health 8/15/06*

Background

This recommendation is based in part on recently released findings from the U.S. Office of the Surgeon General¹ in a report of the health consequences of involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke. This report concludes the following:

- 1. Secondhand smoke causes premature death and disease in children and in adults who do not smoke.*

- 2. Children exposed to secondhand smoke are at an increased risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory infections, ear problems, and more severe asthma. Smoking by parents causes respiratory symptoms and slows lung growth in children.*

- 3. Exposure of adults to secondhand smoke has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and causes coronary heart disease and lung cancer.*

- 4. The scientific evidence indicates that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke.*

- 5. Many millions of Americans, both children and adults, are still exposed to secondhand smoke in their homes and workplaces despite substantial progress in tobacco control.*

6. *Eliminating smoking in indoor spaces fully protects nonsmokers from exposure to secondhand smoke. Separating smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the air, and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate exposures of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke.*

Reference:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*, Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006