

FIVE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF INDIANA SMOKE-FREE AIR LAW

July 1, 2017 marks five years since the Indiana Smoke-free Air Law went into effect. What does this law – and others like it -- mean for children and youth in the communities we serve? A lot more than you might think.

The Indiana state law protects workers and patrons of most public indoor spaces; however, it allows an exemption for bars, private clubs and casinos. This means that in many parts of the state, people can still be exposed to secondhand smoke in public places for hours at a time. This may not directly impact minors, but it does affect the overall health of the communities in which those minors live, particularly when parents and caregivers are among those who work in or frequently visit such places.

Fortunately, local lawmakers have the ability to pass stronger laws. Lawmakers in Terre Haute and Vigo County decided that protection from secondhand smoke should be extended to more places than those affected by the statewide law. So five years ago on July 1, local ordinances went into effect that give people who live and work here greater protection from secondhand smoke than in many other parts of the state.

Chances And Services for Youth celebrates this five-year anniversary on behalf of the children, youth, and young adults we serve, because we know that clean indoor air is one piece of the puzzle when it comes to reducing the devastating effects of tobacco use. We invite you to learn more by checking out our current TPC newsletter and visiting us @VigoTPC on Twitter or “Smoke Free Vigo County” on Facebook.

Happy Anniversary!