

A hand holding a lit cigarette with smoke rising from it. The cigarette is yellow and white, and the smoke is grey and billowing upwards. The hand is light-skinned and is holding the cigarette between the thumb and index finger. The background is dark grey with some smoke-like patterns.

Smoke Free

A hand pointing at a sign that says 'HAPPY ME'. The hand is light-skinned and is pointing with the index finger towards the sign. The sign is yellow with a white border and has the words 'HAPPY ME' in red, bold, capital letters. The background is dark grey with some smoke-like patterns.

HAPPY ME

INTRODUCTION

1

Who are we?

2

What is tobacco?

3

What is nicotine?

4

Environmental effects



5

Existing Coachella tobacco regulations

6

Smoke free outdoor places & MUH

7

The problem

8

Tobacco retail permitting ordinance

9

Our mission

10

Call to action

HEALTH ACADEMY- HOSA

WHO ARE WE?

We are the CVHS Health Academy & HOSA. Our vision is to promote healthcare, public & mental health awareness and education for youth and communities of the Coachella Valley. We work to enhance the delivery of quality healthcare by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill, and leadership development and be a part of the future of healthcare.



WHAT IS TOBACCO?



TOBACCOS EFFECTS

Tobacco is a plant used to produce products like cigarettes, cigars, and pipes, and it can also be used for chewing and stuffing. The primary addictive chemical in tobacco is nicotine, which can lead to serious health issues, including strokes, heart disease, lung cancer, various respiratory illnesses, addiction, and problems related to reproductive health. Additionally, when smoke is exhaled, it can create secondhand and thirdhand smoke, which can negatively impact others in the community.



WHAT IS NICOTINE?



NICOTINES EFFECTS

Nicotine is a chemical primarily found in tobacco products. It is the main reason why items like cigarettes, cigars, and vapes are so addictive, leading to a strong dependence on these products. Its effects on the body include decreased appetite, increased heart rate and blood pressure, addiction, and a higher risk of heart disease and respiratory issues, among other health problems.



ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

AIR POLLUTION & CIGARETTE WASTE

An estimated 766,751 metric tons of cigarette butts make their way into the environment every year. This mass amount of waste causes serious consequences on our ecosystem, and health. A major concern is air pollution, tobacco's curing involves burning fuels, releasing pollutants like carbon monoxide into our atmosphere.



EXISTING COACHELLA TOBACCO REGULATION



NONE IN PLACE

Currently, Coachella does not have any comprehensive smoke-free policies in place for outdoor spaces and multi-unit housings. However, neighboring cities have already adopted smoke-free policies that are proving effective in protecting public health and improving the quality of life for residents.

SMOKE FREE OUTDOOR SPACES & MUH

WHAT IS IT?

Smoke-free outdoor spaces and multi-unit housings prohibit smoking to protect people from secondhand smoke exposure, which is harmful to the health of residents, children, and the general public. Cities across California are adopting smoke-free outdoor space policies in public areas like parks, beaches, dining patios, and multi-unit housings.



**THIS ESTABLISHMENT IS
SMOKE-FREE**

THE PROBLEM



SECOND HAND SMOKE

Secondhand smoke exposure is particularly dangerous for vulnerable groups like children, the elderly, and those with respiratory issues. It increases the risk of conditions like asthma, lung disease, and heart disease. In multi-unit housing, residents are at higher risk due to smoke traveling between units, while in public outdoor spaces, non-smokers can be exposed to harmful chemicals and toxins.



TOBACCO RETAILER PERMITTING

WHAT IS IT?

Riverside County has addressed the sales of tobacco to minors and the density of tobacco outlets in communities, as well as sales of certain tobacco products by adopting a tobacco retailer license. This requires retailers to obtain permits to sell tobacco to enforce the ordinance in the unincorporated areas and cities in the county.



OUR MISSION

ADOPT AN ORDINANCE

Although many cities have passed tobacco-free laws that cover outdoor areas (parks, recreational spaces, restaurants, public events, and MUH) we are yet to have one in place in the City of Coachella. We hope to educate and protect future generations from the harmful effects caused by tobacco use and waste by implementing these policies.



SO FAR..



2024-2025





2025-2026





CALL TO ACTION

SMOKE FREE PUBLIC OUTDOOR SPACES & MUH

We ask that the City of Coachella to adopt and implement a policy that:

- Eliminates smoking in all outdoor recreational and non recreational public spaces (including parks, sidewalks, dining, worksites, event sites, etc)
- Does not allow designated smoking areas or distance exemptions
- Prohibits smoking and vaping of all products from multi-unit housing (MUH) of two or more units (market-rate, public, and subsidized),
- Bans smoking within 25 feet from all doors, windows, patios, and balconies
- Adds clear no-smoking signage in parks, bus stops, and other public areas
- Emphasizes a graduated enforcement process.





Thankyou!



Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.
We look forward to working together to create a healthier,
smoke-free environment in Coachella.

