

MENTAL HEALTH/CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY TREATMENT HOSPITALS:

THE NEXT FACILITIES TO GO SMOKE-FREE

Since the "Smoke-Free Society By The Year 2000" challenge of U.S. Surgeon General, C. Everett Koop in 1984, the smoke-free general hospital has become the accepted standard in the U.S.A. ⁽¹⁾ By contrast, until recently, Mental Health/Chemical Dependency (MH/CD) Treatment Centers have all too often been unhealthy smoke-filled rooms with actual promotion of tobacco use. In addition to the direct ill effects of both voluntary and involuntary tobacco smoking, nicotine was recognized in the 1988 Surgeon General's Report as addictive in a manner similar to heroin and cocaine, and a "gateway drug" for other addictive substances. ⁽²⁾ Public Health leaders and concerned citizens have seen the obvious inconsistency between tobacco smoke-filled MH/CD Treatment Centers and a successful outcome in our current national "war on drugs" commitment,

Published examples of progress to implement hospital smoking bans include the world famous Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, ⁽³⁾ all 200 facilities of the American Indian Health Service ⁽⁴⁾ ⁽⁵⁾ ⁽⁶⁾, Kaiser Permanente ⁽⁷⁾ and others too numerous to mention in the U.S.A. Recently a smoking policy survey was mailed to the hospitals in the state of Arizona, U.S.A. with the results shown below. (Smoke-Free was defined as no smoking allowed anywhere inside any building by anyone).

Survey Results

<u>Total # Of Surveys</u>	<u>Surveys Returned</u>	<u>Response Percentage</u>
102	71	69.6%

General Hospital Section

Mental Health/Chemical Dependency Section

Totally Smoke-Free	24 (40.0%)	Totally Smoke-Free	9 (30.0%)
Date Set To Be Smoke-Free	8 (13.3%)	Date Set To Be Smoke-Free	6 (20.0%)
Restricted Smoking	28 (46.7%)	Restricted Smoking	15 (50.0%)
No Restriction On Smoking	0 (0.0%)	No Restriction On Smoking	0 (0.0%)