



**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**Air Quality Monitoring (AQM) Study**

Air Quality Monitoring study was conducted by Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI), State Voluntary Health Associations, and several other tobacco control organizations around India—including Cancer Foundation of India (West Bengal), Shree Hari Seva Trust (Gujarat), Mary Anne Charity Trust of Smokefree Chennai, Centre for Multidisciplinary Development Research (Karnataka), and Mizoram State Tobacco Control Society which concluded in September 2009. This study helped in identifying the quality of air in public places like restaurants, bars, pubs etc. A total of 211 sites were sampled in 16 cities across 12 Indian states/territories.

**Major findings**

- Even one year after the enforcement of Smoke free law in India more than 50% of the places are out of compliance. Smoking was observed in 127 places out of 211 places visited during the study period.

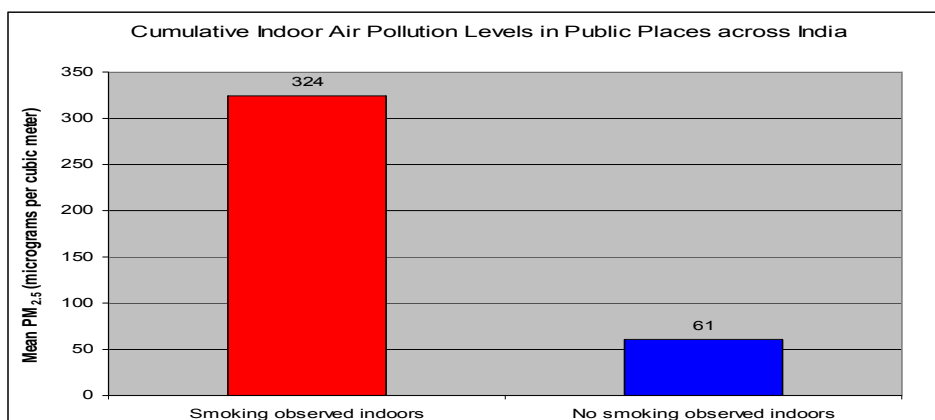
**Breakdown of locations sampled throughout India**

Name of City/District (State)	Total	# Smoking observed (Indoor places)	# Smoking not observed (Indoor places)	Other (Outdoor areas)
Ahmedabad (Gujarat)	20	3	16	1
Aizawl (Mizoram)	22	16	6	
Allepy, Ernakulam, Kottayam and Thiruvanthapuram (Kerala)	33	29	4	
Bangalore (Karnataka)	14	9	5	
Bhopal and Indore (Madhya Pradesh)	12	7	5	
Bhubhaneswar (Orissa)	12	8	4	
Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	32	19	11	2
Jaipur (Rajasthan)	13	8	5	
Kolkata (West Bengal)	16	6	10	
Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)	20	12	8	
New Delhi	12	5	7	
Shillong (Meghalaya)	8	5	3	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>3</b>

- Smoke-free places had significantly lower pollution levels than places where smoking was observed. Among all 211 indoor places combined, pollution levels were 81% less for smoke-free places than places where smoking was observed.



- The level of fine particle air pollution (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) in the places with observed smoking is over 32 times higher than the World Health Organization target air quality guideline for PM<sub>2.5</sub>—which is 10 µm/m<sup>3</sup> (annual mean).
- In total “No Smoking” signage was absent in 129 places.
- Non-compliance of rules where the signage were present, e.g. either did not meet the size or message requirements.
- Smoking was prevalent even in the places where signages were present.
- Out of 45 non-smoking places for which information is available in 28 places presence of ashtrays were observed.
- Out of 24 places for which information is available at 7 places employees were actively helping in smoking by lighting the cigarettes for customers.
- Only in 4 locations designated smoking rooms (DSRs) were present but none of them were as per the guidelines of the smoke free law.
- Out of 48 places for which information is available at 24 locations smoking was observed along the entranceways.
- In some places it was found that owners/persons in charge of establishments did not stop persons from smoking.
- Both the patrons and the staff members are at serious risk to the harmful effects of second-hand smoke pollution in the locations where smoking is allowed.



### Conclusion:

The findings of the study is consistent with the findings of the World Health Organization and the International Agency for Research on Cancer, and provides further evidence that indoor smoking causes exposure to harmful levels of air pollution. The most alarming findings of the study is that cumulative indoor air pollution level in public places across India, i.e. 324, which is much beyond “Hazardous” category (> 251) of US EPA Air Quality Index. The employees and non-smokers exposed to tobacco smoke in these places are at increased risk of a wide range of adverse health effects including heart attack and lung cancer.

The study demonstrates that there is a gross violation of smoke free laws in India and need to implement and increase compliance with the smoke-free air law by ensuring that no-smoking signage is prominently placed and respected in all enclosed public places, and restricting smoking near building entrances or corridors. The DSR provision of the smoke-free air law is being widely ignored. Unfortunately, no public policy allowing for DSRs has ever been demonstrated to eliminate the hazards of Second Hand Smokers (SHS) exposure to employees and patrons. Therefore, the Indian smoke-free air law should be modified to create completely smoke-free indoor spaces, with no DSRs. Only 100% smoke-free air laws have been widely accepted and proven to be effective in creating safe environments for workers and patrons in countries around the world.

