



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **New study links smokefree air to reduced heart attack hospital admissions**

*CSA urges legislation movement during lame duck*

**LANSING** – The Campaign for Smokefree Air (CSA) is urging lawmakers to get the job done and take up statewide comprehensive smokefree air legislation during lame duck session. On Nov. 11, 2008, a study was released linking smokefree air legislation with a projected reduction in the number of patients admitted for a heart attack to Michigan hospitals. The study was released by the Henry Ford Hospital where researchers examined the average number of heart attack hospital admissions in Michigan from 1999 to 2006 and concluded that smokefree air could lower admissions by up to 3,340 admissions annually.

“Clearly lives are at risk and the legislature needs to deal with this issue with a sense of urgency,” said Katherine Knoll, CSA spokesperson. “Workers have dealt with the dangers of secondhand smoke long enough and these studies can no longer be ignored. The legislature needs to get the job done. It’s time to protect all workers whether you work in an office, factory, restaurant or bar.”

The study was conducted by using meta-analysis, a statistical method, to calculate the impact of smokefree air and hospital admission incidence. Researchers used the average heart attack admissions rate for the past eight years, and then multiplied it with the attributed risk calculated from several studies to estimate the projected heart attack admissions rate in Michigan if smokefree air legislation was passed.

In a recent Henry Ford Health System press release Dr. Mouaz Al-Mallah, Henry Ford’s director of Cardiac Imaging Research and lead author of this study, stated if smokefree air were implemented in Michigan a 12 percent drop in heart attack admissions would be seen after the first year.

In 2007, a study found an eight percent reduction in hospital admissions one year after New York became smokefree. Several European countries saw these results as well. The Journal of the American Heart Association reported a reduction in the number of acute coronary events, such as heart attacks in adults, after Italy adopted comprehensive smokefree legislation. The study revealed an 11.2-percent reduction in acute coronary events in persons 35 to 64 years of age and a 7.9-percent reduction in those ages 65 to 74.

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The Campaign for Smokefree Air is urging lawmakers to take up House Bill 4163 during lame duck session.

**About CSA**

The Campaign for Smokefree Air is a grassroots coalition with , more than 260 members, including leadership from the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association of Michigan, Michigan Health & Hospital Association, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Pfizer and Michigan State Medical Society, as well as other statewide groups that support making workplaces smokefree, including restaurants and bars. For more information about the Campaign for Smokefree Air, please visit [www.MakeMIAirSmokefree.org](http://www.MakeMIAirSmokefree.org).

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