

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Secondhand Smoke Exposure Cost \$390.3 million per Year in Indiana, New Study Shows**

**Indianapolis, IN** – According to a recent study performed by Bowen Research Center – Department of Family Medicine – Indiana University School of Medicine, secondhand smoke costs Indiana residents \$390.3 million yearly in health care and premature loss of life.

The study measured the costs of secondhand smoke-related morbidity and mortality to residents of the State of Indiana (in 2007), and found that Hoosiers were estimated to pay \$282.5 million in direct health care costs and \$107.8 million in premature loss of life costs annually because of secondhand smoke, for a total cost of \$390.3 million yearly. (The full study can be found at: [www.itpc.in.gov](http://www.itpc.in.gov) on the Evaluation and Research: Key Reports and Research Articles page.)

At the Indiana Latino Institute, Inc. (ILI), as tobacco control advocates, we consider this report most timely as the state legislature prepares to hear a bill during this session that proposes a comprehensive statewide smokefree ordinance. This report just adds to the many others, such as that of the U.S. Surgeon General issued in 2006 stating that there are negative health consequences of secondhand smoke (heart disease, lung cancer, respiratory illness and many other chronic and acute diseases).

As the lead agency for the National Latino Tobacco Control Network, ILI has strong partnerships (locally and nationally) who support efforts for a healthier community and protecting all Hoosier residents from secondhand smoke. Adopting a statewide smokefree air bill would do just that.

For further information on tobacco facts, prevention, education or cessation in English and Spanish contact the Indiana Latino Institute, Inc., 317-472-1055.

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