

Secondhand Smoke in Multi-unit Housing



Secondhand smoke (SHS) consists of smoke from a burning tobacco product and the smoke exhaled by a smoker. It is a toxic substance that causes serious health problems for non-smokers.¹ Many people who live in public housing are especially affected by SHS.² This includes children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.²



The United States Environmental Protection Agency classifies SHS as a **cancer-causing agent**.¹

It contains hundreds of **toxic chemicals** including formaldehyde, arsenic, and hydrogen cyanide.¹

There is **no safe level** of exposure to SHS.¹

Health Risks

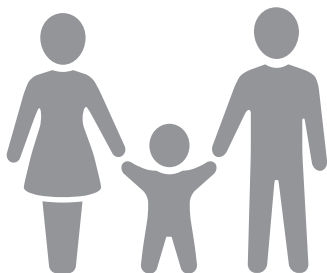
Breathing SHS causes serious health problems for children and adults.

Children exposed to SHS are more likely to suffer from:

- Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)¹
- Bronchitis and pneumonia¹
- Ear infections¹
- Asthma attacks¹

Adults exposed to SHS are more likely to develop:

- Lung cancer¹
- Heart disease & stroke¹
- Breathing problems¹



41,000

Approximately 41,000 nonsmoking adults die every year from SHS exposure in the United States.³

Who is at risk?

1 in 3

More than one in three nonsmokers who live in rental housing are exposed to SHS.²

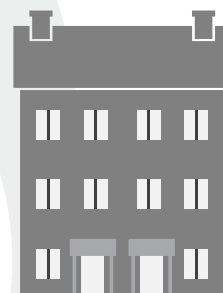
2 in 5

Two in five children (including seven in ten black children) are exposed to SHS.²

Secondhand Smoke at Home

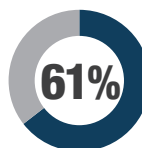
The home is the main place where children are exposed to SHS.²

SHS can drift into units through windows, doors, walls, hallways, and air ducts.²

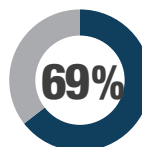


Support for Smoke-free Housing

California renters support smoke-free housing restrictions to protect themselves and their families:



61% of renters **support smoking bans inside units**.⁴



69% of renters **support smoking bans in outdoor common areas**.⁴



References: Secondhand Smoke in Multi-Unit Housing

- ¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006. Available from: http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/sgr/2006/pdfs/6major-conclusions.pdf.
- ² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Secondhand Smoke: An Unequal Danger, 2015*. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/pdf/2015-02-vitalsigns.pdf>.
- ³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Tobacco Related Mortality*, Updated August 2015. Available from: https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/health_effects/tobacco_related_mortality.
- ⁴ Goodwin, Paul. Goodwin Simon Strategic Research. *Summary of 12-County Survey for the Lung Association*. 2014.