

## **Secondhand Smoke Information**

Secondhand smoke (SHS) is also called passive smoke or environmental tobacco smoke (ETS). (Smoking and Arteries. 1998, January 14. The Washington Post , p. A2.)

SHS inside a car can be more toxic than rush hour exhaust fumes. (U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 1995.)

83% of Californians do not smoke! (2000 California Adult Tobacco Survey-CA Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section)

43% of American children are exposed to secondhand smoke from members of their household who smoke. (Pirkle, et al. 1996 *Journal of American Medicine*, 275, 1233-1240)

37% of adults report home or work exposure to secondhand smoke. (Ibid)

87.9% of non-smokers showed detectable levels of cotinine (a metabolite of nicotine) in their blood, the most likely source of which is secondhand smoke exposure. (Ibid)

82% increased risk of stroke associated with SHS in both men and women. (Repace Associates, Inc.)\*

SHS causes heart disease, cancer, sudden infant death syndrome, and many other illnesses and health problems. (Harvey, W. 1996. Pharmacy Morality II: Tobacco Deaths - Does Pharmacy Care? Lighting Up the Evidence. *Journal of Pharmacy Technology* , 12, 257-258, 291-292)

Studies suggest that evidence of a causal association with SHS can cause cervical cancer. (Repace Associates, Inc.)

SHS causes approximately 3,000 lung cancer deaths each year among nonsmoking adults. (CRS Report for Congress, Environmental Tobacco Smoke and Lung Cancer Risk; EPA 1994. Secondhand Smoke— Setting the Record Straight...)

SHS is the third leading cause of preventable death in the United States, after active smoking and alcohol use, with an estimated 53,000 deaths annually. ("Secondhand Smoke Factory" PSA, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

More than 4,700 nonsmoking Californians are killed and tens of thousands more sickened each year by secondhand smoke. (*Scientific review Panel on Toxic Air Contaminants and California EPA* 1997)

Smoke from a single cigar burned in a home can require 5 hours to dissipate, thereby exposing other household members to a sizeable involuntary health risk. (Cigars: Health Effects and Trends. (1998. Smoking and Tobacco Control Monograph #9. United States Department of Health and Human Services.)

Secondhand smoking causes up to 3,000 new childhood asthma cases in California each year and as many as 188,000 doctor's visits for middle ear infections. (Difranza & Lew. 1996, April. Pediatrics)

“What the smoker does to himself may be his business, but what the smoker does to the nonsmoker is quite a different matter... *This we see as the most dangerous development to viability of the tobacco industry that has yet occurred.*” From a secret study in 1978 commissioned by the Tobacco Institute, the tobacco industry’s lobbying and political arm in the United States. This was before the first research linking SHS and lung cancer was published. (Repace Associates, Inc.)\*

Sidestream Smoke: "Sidestream" smoke, which curls off the end of a smoldering cigarette, is the main component of secondhand smoke and is different in composition from the "mainstream" smoke that smokers inhale. Sidestream smoke contains higher concentrations of several known or probable human carcinogens. (U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 1995)

The EPA has determined secondhand smoke to be a trigger for asthma attacks.

The harmful effects of secondhand smoke can be felt up to 20 feet. There is scientific justification for policies banning smoking in outdoor areas. James Repace, a well-known researcher on secondhand smoke, has shown that not banning smoking in outdoor areas, “may expose non-smokers to levels of environmental tobacco smoke as high or higher than received in indoor spaces where smoking is unrestricted.” (Repace Associates, Inc.)\*

ETS can worsen existing pulmonary symptoms in people with asthma and chronic bronchitis, as well as for people with allergic conditions. Even individuals who are not allergic can suffer eye irritation, sore throat, nausea, and hoarseness.

\* Repace Associates, Inc. are secondhand smoke consultants that includes James Repace, MSc., Physicist, Bowie, Maryland; Ichiro Kawachi, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Health and Social Behavior, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts; and Stanton Glantz, PhD., Professor Department of Cardiology, University of California, San Francisco, California.