

Second Hand Smoke

Below are some facts that illustrate how harmful secondhand smoke can be:

- **4,000** chemical compounds have been identified in secondhand smoke, **200** are poisons and at least **40** cause cancer.¹
- Smoke-filled rooms have up to **six** times the air pollution as a busy highway.²
- Secondhand smoke will stay in an enclosed environment for approximately **two weeks** before the air is officially clean.³
- In the United States, annual healthcare expenditures solely from secondhand smoke exposure total **\$4.98 billion**.⁴
- Secondhand smoke is responsible for approximately **3,000** lung cancer deaths annually in U.S. non-smokers.⁵
- Secondhand smoke has been estimated to result in at least **53,000** annual deaths in the United States.⁶
- In the United States **43%** of children aged 11 years and under live in a household with at least one smoker.⁷ By age five, each of these children will have inhaled the equivalent of **102** packs of cigarettes.⁸
- Exposure to the secondhand smoke of just **one** cigarette per day accelerates the progression of atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries).⁶
- Environmental Tobacco Smoke contains at least **250** chemicals known to be toxic or cause cancer. Unfortunately, the general public's exposure to secondhand smoke is much higher than most people realize.
- Secondhand smoke is sometimes referred to as environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), is a mixture of the smoke given off by the burning ends of a cigarette, pipe, cigar, bidis, and kreteks (sidestream smoke) and the smoke emitted at the mouthpiece and exhaled from the lungs of smokers (mainstream smoke).
- The widespread practice of smoking in buildings exposes non-smoking occupants to combustion by-products under conditions where airborne contaminant removal is slow and uncertain. Over the past **two decades**, medical science has shown that nonsmokers suffer many of the diseases of active smoking when they breathe

¹ American Lung Association, www.lungusa.org;

² Centers for Disease Control, It's Time to Stop Being a passive Victim, 1993;

³ Repace/Lowrey, Environmental journal, 1986: 11:3, www.repace.com;

⁴ Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, <http://tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0072.pdf>;

⁵ CDC Tobacco Use in the U.S., Retrieved Sept. 30, 2003, www.cdc.gov/tobacco/overview/tobus_us.htm;

⁶ American Heart Association, www.heart.org;

⁷ Pirkle JL, Flegal KM, Bernert JT, Brody DJ, Etzel RA, Maurer KR Exposure of the US population to environmental tobacco smoke: the Third National Health & Nutrition Examination Survey, 1988-1991. JAMA 1996; 275:1233-1240;

⁸ Hammond, S. K., Sorensen, G., Youngstrom, R., and Ockene, J.K. "Occupational Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke." JAMA 274 (1995): 956 - 960