

Secondhand Smoke Fact Sheet

Smoke free workplace ordinances save lives.

- There is no safe level of secondhand smoke. It has been classified as a Class A carcinogen by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.¹
- Secondhand smoke is a mixture of the smoke from the burning end of a pipe, cigarette or cigar and the smoke exhaled by a smoker. It is one of the most common sources of indoor air pollution in Indiana and the United States.^{1,2}
- Secondhand smoke consists of over 4,000 substances, including 200 poisons, and over 50 substances that are known to cause cancer.^{1,2}
- Secondhand smoke kills 250 nonsmokers in Marion County each year. It causes cancer, heart disease, strokes and many other illnesses. Secondhand smoke also worsens other medical conditions such as asthma, emphysema, heart failure and anemia.^{3,8}
- Even a half hour of secondhand smoke exposure causes heart damage similar to that of habitual smokers.⁴
- For every eight smokers who die from using tobacco products, one nonsmoker is killed by secondhand smoke.⁵
- In 2002, at least \$16.7 million were spent for the hospitalization and health care of Marion County residents with secondhand smoke exposure-caused diseases.³
- Spending two hours in a “non smoking” restaurant section is like smoking two cigarettes; eight hours in an office that allows smoking is equal to smoking six cigarettes; and two hours in a smoky bar is equal to smoking five cigarettes.⁶
- Secondhand smoke is especially dangerous to children, particularly young children with developing respiratory systems. Secondhand smoke can cause SIDS, asthma, pneumonia, ear infections, lower respiratory tract infections, and irritate allergies.^{1,7}

References:

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