

Secondhand Smoke Fact Sheet

- Secondhand Smoke (SHS) is the toxic waste of tobacco combustion, emitted from the combination of tobacco smoke from the burning ends of cigarettes, pipes, and cigars, and exhaled smoke from smokers.
- The widespread practice of smoking in buildings exposes nonsmoking occupants to combustion by-products under slowly dissipating conditions.
- Throughout the developed world, nations engage in the practice of pollution control with the intention of protecting human health against the effects of harmful chemical contaminants in food, water, and air.
- Control measures are in place to maintain standards of acceptability for harmful contaminants in food, beverages, drinking water, outdoor air, and indoor air in industrial workplaces.
- Tobacco smoke is still allowed in workplaces, including offices, restaurants, and bars, causing exposure to toxic chemicals not permitted in other environments.
- Breathing secondhand smoke causes morbidity and mortality from Cancer, heart disease, and respiratory disease, as well as acute sensory irritation.
- SHS causes death prematurely in hundreds of thousands of nonsmokers worldwide.
- Ventilation, air cleaning, or spatial separation of smokers from nonsmokers cannot control secondhand smoke. Smoke-free buildings are the only remedy.

To join the effort to decrease death and disease created by secondhand smoke, call or E-mail Jay Goodbinder at: 816 426 3290 or Jgoodbinder@ospohs.dhhs.gov

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