



RESEARCH SAYS:

“...even limited secondhand smoke exposure delivers enough nicotine to the brain to alter its function.”

Nora Volkow, Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse, US, 2011

Harm Caused by Secondhand Smoke

<p>ADULTS</p> 	<p>SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE Coronary artery disease; Lung cancer</p> <p>SUGGESTIVE EVIDENCE Stroke; Nasal sinus cancer; Breast cancer; Carotid arterial wall thickening; Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; Pre-term delivery</p>
<p>CHILDREN</p> 	<p>SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE Middle-ear disease; Respiratory symptoms (cough, wheeze, phlegm, breathlessness); Impaired lung function; Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS); Lower respiratory illness (including infections); Low birth weight</p> <p>SUGGESTIVE EVIDENCE Brain tumors; Lymphoma; Leukemia; Asthma</p>

! Freeters who do not smoke but are exposed to secondhand smoke can experience symptoms of nicotine dependence

THE INDUSTRY WAS TOLD:

“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 the viability of the tobacco industry that has yet occurred.”

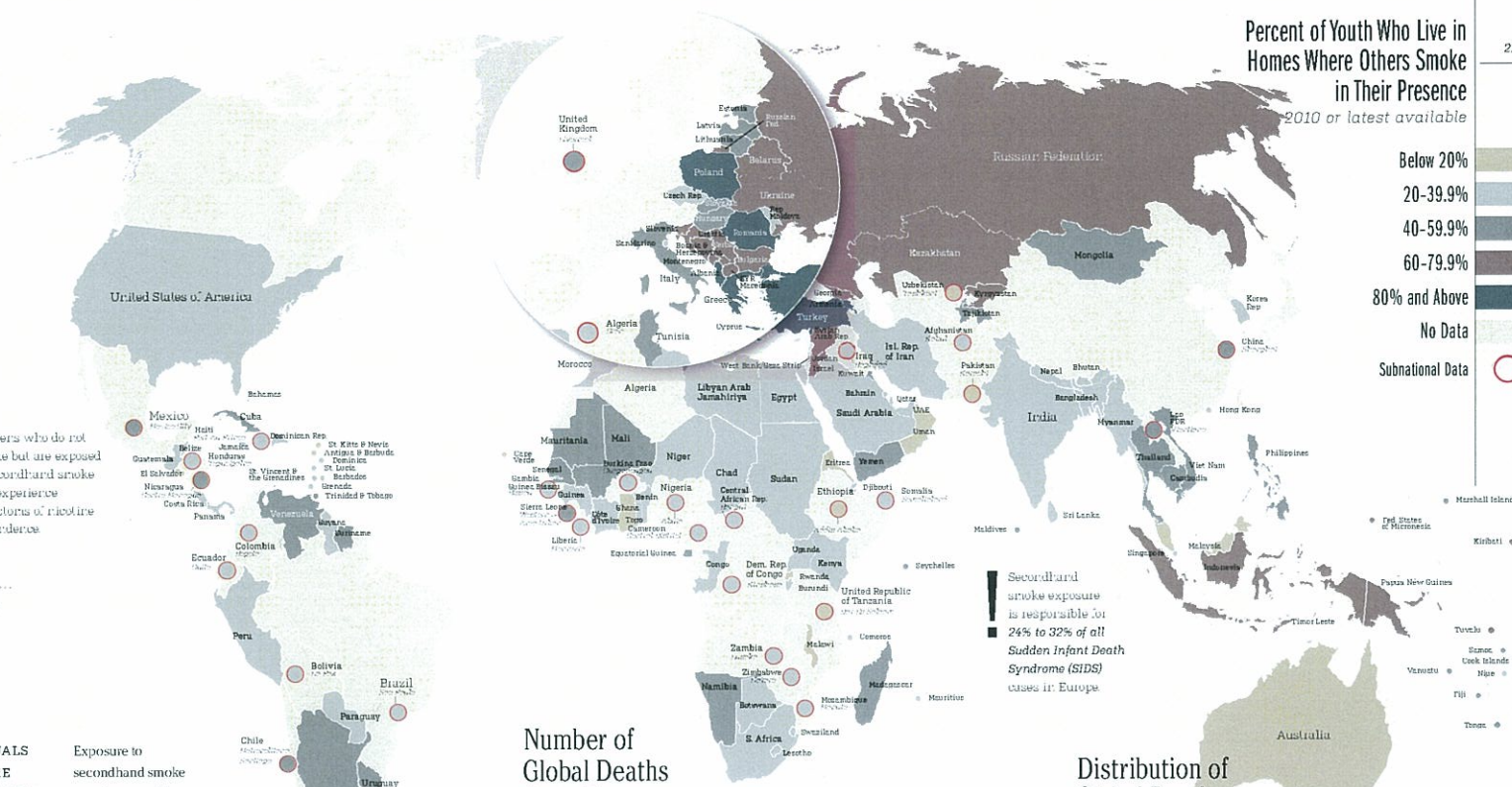
Roper Organization, US, 1978

Secondhand smoke, or “forced smoking,” kills even those people who have consciously chosen not to smoke. Secondhand smoke, also known as environmental tobacco smoke, is a mixture of sidestream smoke from the burning tip of a cigarette, cigar, or pipe, and mainstream smoke, which smokers exhale. Sidestream smoke is the major component of secondhand smoke, and it contains higher concentrations of carcinogens than mainstream smoke.

There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Globally, about 40% of children and a third of nonsmoking adults were exposed to secondhand smoke in 2004. The Western Pacific region has the highest rate of secondhand smoke exposure, with more than 50% of men, women, and children exposed to secondhand smoke in 2004.

AN ESTIMATED 600,000 INDIVIDUALS DIE ANNUALLY FROM EXPOSURE TO SECONDHAND SMOKE, AND THE MAJORITY OF SECONDHAND SMOKE DEATHS ARE AMONG WOMEN AND CHILDREN. Breathing secondhand smoke causes immediate harm to the cardiovascular and respiratory systems. Long-term exposure to secondhand smoke can even cause lung cancer. Expectant mothers, fetuses, and infants exposed to secondhand smoke are at particularly high risk of adverse health consequences. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), respiratory issues, and behavioral and learning problems can result when infants and children are exposed to secondhand smoke.

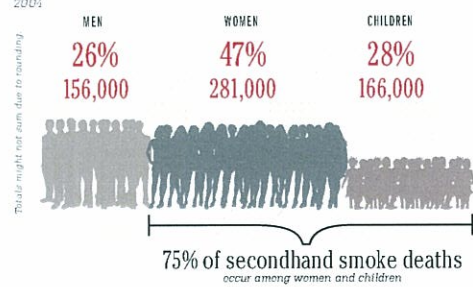
Exposure to secondhand smoke remains one of the world’s most critical environmental health hazards, and is more harmful than all other indoor-air contaminants. The fact that nonsmokers have been forced to inhale other people’s smoke has led to unprecedented citizen mobilization and the demand for tobacco control measures, including clean indoor-air laws, tax increases, restrictions on sales to minors, and advertising, promotion, and sponsorship bans.



Percent of Youth Who Live in Homes Where Others Smoke in Their Presence
 2010 or latest available

Below 20%
 20-39.9%
 40-59.9%
 60-79.9%
 80% and Above
 No Data
 Subnational Data

Number of Global Deaths Caused by Secondhand Smoke in Nonsmokers
 2004



Distribution of Global Deaths From Exposure to Secondhand Smoke
 By WHO regions, 2004

