

Federal Update: New CDC Report on Secondhand Smoke Exposure Indicates Troubling Disparities

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a *Vital Signs* report this afternoon about secondhand smoke exposure in the United States. Data indicates that exposure to secondhand smoke has been reduced by half since 1999-2000, however, one in four nonsmokers – 58 million people – are still exposed to secondhand smoke.

In addition, the report points out significant disparities in exposure to secondhand smoke. This exposure remains higher among children, African-Americans, those who live in poverty, and those who live in rental housing. Two of every five children, including seven in ten African-American children, are exposed to secondhand smoke. There is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke exposure.

The report suggests protecting nonsmokers from secondhand smoke exposure in the places they live, work, and gather can be done through comprehensive statewide laws prohibiting smoking in worksites and public places, smokefree policies in multi-unit housing, and voluntary smokefree home and vehicle rules.

To see the American Lung Association's statement, click [here](#).

To view the CDC press release, click [here](#). For the full *Vital Signs* report, click [here](#).



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