



CDC study finds over one-third of multiunit housing residents are involuntarily exposed to secondhand smoke in their homes

On July 13, 2016, the American Journal of Preventive Medicine published a study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on exposure to secondhand smoke among multiunit housing residents. This is the first national study to establish that both tobacco use and involuntary exposure to secondhand smoke are higher among residents of multiunit housing compared to residents living in single family homes.

Among residents who live in multiunit housing but have rules against smoking in their own units, 34 percent were involuntarily subjected to secondhand smoke while in their homes. Certain demographic factors were also associated with increased odds of involuntarily being exposed to secondhand smoke in multiunit homes. Women, non-Latino blacks, and Latinos were significantly more likely to be exposed to secondhand smoke in their multiunit residences than their counterparts.

Additionally, the study found that multiunit housing residents are more likely both to use tobacco products and to allow smoking in their homes compared to residents of single family housing. About 25 percent of adults living in multiunit housing use tobacco products, compared with 19 percent of adults living in single family homes. About 88 percent of single family home residences abide by “smoke free home” rules, compared with only 81 percent of multiunit households.

The study underscores the important role smokefree multiunit housing policies play in reducing exposure to secondhand smoke, along with the need for smoking cessation programs aimed at residents of multiunit housing.

To see the full study, click [HERE](#).

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If you have questions about this update, please contact Diana Douglas (diana.douglas@lung.org)