

Second-Hand Smoke and Children

How does second-hand smoke harm children?

Infants exposed to second-hand smoke are more likely to die from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), also known as crib death.

Infants and children who are exposed to second-hand smoke are at greater risk of developing pneumonia and bronchitis, and are more likely to need hospital care.

Exposure to second-hand smoke puts children at greater risk of developing asthma.

Children with asthma who are exposed to second-hand smoke have more attacks and the attacks can be more severe.

Children exposed to second-hand smoke are at greater risk of developing fluid in the middle ear which may cause loss of hearing if not treated.

Even if the child is placed in another room, the smoke drifts from one room to another via the ventilation system and eventually reaches your child.

Smoke circulates like air. Even if someone smokes away from the child, the chemicals found in smoke, in particular nicotine, sticks to clothes. This is especially important for babies who, when they are carried, often have their faces pressed up against adults' clothing. This can irritate their eyes and nose.

Children whose parents smoked were almost twice as likely to smoke as children whose parents never smoked.

Children have no control over the environment in which they are placed. They are not able to protect themselves from second-hand smoke.