

## Secondhand Smoke (Tobacco): Latest Findings And Proposed Changes to Oakland's Smoking Pollution Control Act



The number of people who are killed by secondhand smoke exposure would more than fill Oakland's McAfee Coliseum – every year in the US – that is 53,000 non-smokers.<sup>i</sup>

Secondhand smoke contains over 50 chemicals known to cause cancer in humans – there is NO safe level of exposure.<sup>ii</sup>

According to the US Surgeon General's Report on Secondhand Smoke<sup>iii</sup>:

- Secondhand smoke has been proven to cause lung cancer, fatal heart attacks, other cancers and lung diseases.
- Secondhand smoke causes asthma attacks and other illnesses in children including bronchitis and ear infections.

### Just How Dangerous is Secondhand Smoke Outdoors?

- Toxins near an outdoor smoker can be 10 times worse than the exhaust from nearby truck and car traffic.<sup>iv</sup>
- Being outdoors within six feet of a smoker can be just as toxic as being indoors with a smoker.<sup>v</sup>

### PROPOSED NEW PROTECTIONS

- No smoking in **outdoor services** areas such as bus stops, ATMs, cab stands, ticket lines
- No smoking in **outdoor dining areas** such as sidewalk cafes
- No smoking in **recreational areas** such as parks and public trails.

QUESTIONS? Contact Barbara Killey at: [bkilley@oaklandnet.com](mailto:bkilley@oaklandnet.com)

## Californians spend 2/3rds of their time at home

Thanks to California's Smoke-Free Workplace Act, Californians can breathe easier for 18% of their day while at work or in public places. But the place where Californians spend over 2/3rds of their day -- is not protected at all. A growing number of apartment and condominium dwellers have been asking that local governments do something about the unwanted secondhand smoke that drifts into their homes from their neighbors smoking. Even though the majority of Alameda County residents -- 85% -- never allow smoking in their homes<sup>vi</sup>, nearly half of apartment dwellers report being exposed to secondhand smoke in their homes from drifting smoke<sup>vii</sup>.

## Just How Dangerous is Secondhand Smoke in Attached Housing Like Apartments and Condos?



- Secondhand smoke quickly spreads within buildings and cannot be completely eliminated by any ventilation systems, air filters, or other air cleaning devices. Smoke can travel through shared ventilation, air ducts, opened doors and windows, plumbing, and electrical outlets<sup>viii</sup>.
- Children, the elderly, and people with asthma and other chronic illnesses are especially vulnerable to being harmed by exposure to secondhand smoke<sup>ix</sup>.



## PROPOSED NEW PROTECTIONS for Apartment/Condo Dwellers

- Requires** all units including balconies in new multi-unit housing complexes be designated non-smoking
- Disclosure** of smoking policy in multi-unit housing
  - Requires landlords/condo sellers to disclose to prospective tenants/buyers, whether unit is smoking or non-smoking, which units allow smoking, and the smoking policy for the complex.
- Declare** second hand smoke a nuisance allowing for private party action against the offending renter/owner
- No smoking in **common indoor and outdoor areas** of apartment and condo complexes.

## Other Residential Care Facilities

- No smoking in homes that are licensed **Family Childcare center, adult care or health care facilities at any time 24/7.**

<sup>i</sup> California Air Resources Board. *Quarterly report to the California legislature on the air resources board's fine particulate matter program*. 2001. California Environmental Protection Agency.

<sup>ii</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006.

<sup>iii</sup> *ibid*

<sup>iv</sup> California Air Resources Board. *Quarterly report to the California legislature on the air resources board's fine particulate matter program*. 2001. California Environmental Protection Agency.

<sup>v</sup> Klepeis, N., Ott, W. & Switzer, P. (2007). *Real-time Measurement of Outdoor Tobacco Smoke Particles*. *Journal of Air and Waste Management* (57).

<sup>vi</sup> Alameda County Public Health Department. *Health of Alameda County Adults, Selected Findings from the 2003 California Health Interview Survey*.

<sup>vii</sup> Goodwin-Simon Strategic Research. *Statewide Survey of California Renters 2004*.

<sup>viii</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *ibid*

<sup>ix</sup> California Air Resources Board. *ibid*