

THIRDHAND SMOKE IN LATINO COMMUNITIES



Thirdhand Smoke

Thirdhand smoke (THS) consists of tobacco chemicals that remain, react, and/or spread even after smoking has stopped.

THS can be found anywhere tobacco products have been used, including but not limited to bedding, carpeting, and furniture.¹

- THS has been found in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit incubators and cribs, likely from visitors who have THS on their clothing, skin, and hair.¹



Who Is At Risk For Exposure?

Anyone living with a person who uses tobacco products is at risk of THS exposure. However, it has been found that **children and people living in low-income neighborhoods have a higher risk of exposure.**²

An Issue of Social Justice

Every person deserves an opportunity to enjoy good health. Latinos continue to be disproportionately affected by THS.

- Latinos who live in multi-unit housing (MUH) such as apartments and condominiums **report unpleasant experiences with secondhand smoke (SHS) and THS.**³
- Latinos are **more likely to rent and earn less than non-Latinos**, all factors which are associated with an increased risk for THS exposure.⁴
- A high number of **Latinos work blue-collar occupations** (e.g., manufacturing, construction, maintenance, and services), **which are also known to have an increased risk of SHS and THS exposure.**⁵

Associated Dangers of THS

THS increases the risk of experiencing allergy symptoms, asthma, inflammation, and altered brain and lung development in children.⁶

Children exposed to SHS and THS miss more days of school due to respiratory illness.⁷





Keeping Families Safe

Living in a tobacco-free environment is the best way to keep your family safe from the negative effects of THS. If you believe you are being exposed to THS, cleaning measures, including airing out rooms daily, washing household fabrics, vacuuming as well as cleaning surfaces, walls, and floors weekly, can help reduce THS exposure, but does not eliminate THS completely.²

A Call to Action

Tenants have the right to demand protection from the harms of tobacco. Smoke-Free Multi-Unit Housing policies that are implemented and enforced at the city, county, and/or state level are effective ways to protect the community. Join a local tobacco control coalition or talk to your local public health department to learn more about what they are doing to protect your health from THS and how you can become involved.



American
Non-Smokers' Rights
Foundation



Thirdhand Smoke
Resource Center

By acting, you can make a difference.

Sources:

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