We Need to Address the Health Dangers of Secondhand Smoke in Multifamily Housing!



People share air in multifamily housing.

Over half of non-smokers in apartments, condos, and duplexes are exposed to secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke can travel through doorways, halls, windows, ventilation systems, electrical outlets, and gaps around fixtures and pipes.

The Dangers of Secondhand Smoke

Secondhand smoke contains over 7,000 chemicals

"Hundreds [of these chemicals] are toxic, and about 70 can cause cancer," says the CDC.

Secondhand smoke has been linked to cancers of the voice box, throat, brain, bladder, rectum, stomach, and breast.



CDC researchers: "There is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke."

Since 1964, 2.5 million adults who were nonsmokers died because they breathed secondhand smoke.

Solution: Smoke-Free Multifamily Housing

A smoke-free multifamily housing city policy that prohibits smoking in common areas and individual units is the only way to truly prevent exposure to secondhand smoke, according to HUD, ChangeLab Solutions, and other health experts.

HUD adopted a smoke-free policy for public housing in 2018.

60+ California cities have a smoke-free policy for private multifamily housing.

Smoke-free policies in multifamily housing are fiscally responsible:

- Reduce property damage, fires
- Reduce unit maintenance costs
- Reduce insurance costs
- Reduce legal liability over secondhand smoke
- Increase protection of health and safety of residents, staff

Smoke-free policies are not discriminatory, as they do not prohibit anyone from renting a unit. They merely set rules for activities permitted on property. There is no legal or constitutional right to smoke.



"At present, the only means of effectively eliminating health risk associated with indoor exposure is to ban smoking activity," says ventilation industry leaders ASHRAE.

Infographic by *Salud America!* at UT Health San Antonio. For references, visit salud.to/smokefreehousing