



Kids in Cars

Protecting youth from secondhand smoke exposure in vehicles

Is smoking in a vehicle really that bad? **YES!**



Secondhand smoke (SHS) levels in vehicles can be extremely high. Average SHS exposure in a car is roughly equal to the exposure from sitting in a smoky bar for three hours.



After the driver is finished smoking, it can take more than 25 minutes for the fine particles in secondhand smoke to disperse and for air quality to return non-smoking levels.



Bohac, D., E. Waldart, and Z. Zhou, 2016. Passenger Vehicle Secondhand Smoke Particulate Measurements. ASHRAE and AIVC IAQ 2016 (forthcoming), Alexandria, VA, 2016 and Bohac et al 2010.

Secondhand Smoke

There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.



7,000 chemicals



250 known toxins



11 carcinogens



38,000-65,000 U.S. deaths annually

Kids are at greater risk

Children exposed to secondhand smoke have increased frequency of **bronchitis and pneumonia**, have **reduced lung function**, and have increased **respiratory infections**, more **chronic coughs**, and more **middle ear infections**.

The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke A Report of the Surgeon General



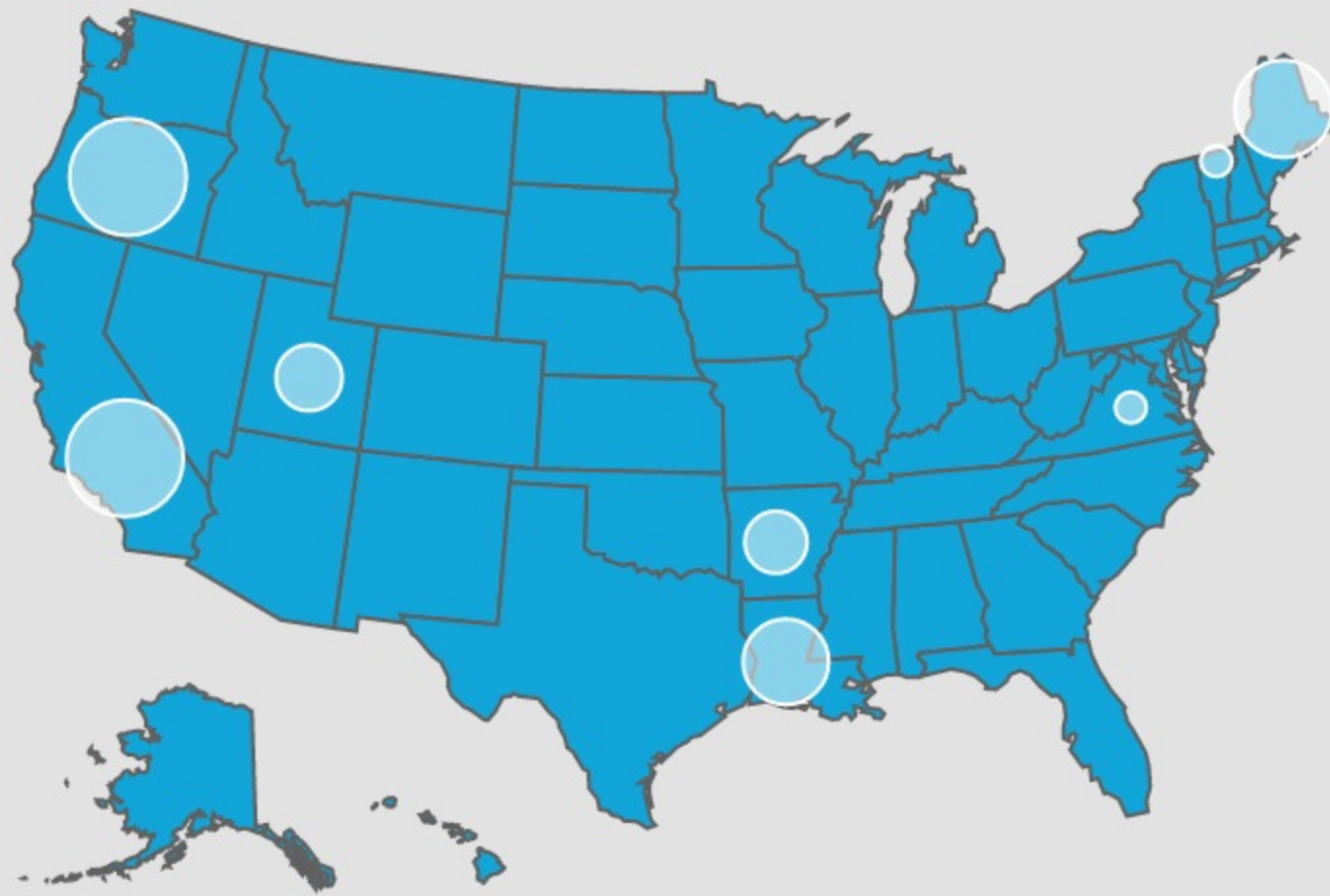
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What can be done to protect kids?

Minnesota can pass a statewide law that would prohibit smoking in a vehicle when children under the age of 18 are present.

This law would protect all Minnesota children from being exposed to dangerous secondhand smoke while riding in a vehicle.



Other states prohibit smoking in vehicles when children are present

- Vermont and Virginia: Under age 8
- Louisiana: Under age 13
- Arkansas: Under age 14
- Utah: Age 15 or younger
- Maine: Under age 16
- Oregon and California: Under age 18

Americans for Non-smokers' Rights

Support

In a national poll, 82 percent of adults support prohibiting smoking when kids are in the car.

University of Michigan Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health

