Levels of secondhand smoke (SHS) in cars can be extremely high due to the restricted area of the vehicle. SHS in vehicles poses a significant health risk to passengers, especially children.

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 to non-smoking levels.

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

E-cigarette aerosol contains harmful chemicals:

- Volatile organic compounds
- Ultrafine particles
- Nicotine
- Cancer-causing chemicals
- Heavy metals such as nickel, tin, and lead
- Flavoring such as diacetyl, a chemical linked to a serious lung disease

**Clean Air for Kids in Cars**
Protecting youth from secondhand smoke and e-cigarette aerosol in vehicles

**Secondhand Smoke**

**E-cig aerosol**

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

www.ansrmn.org/kids-in-cars

**Nearly 23% of MN youth report riding in a vehicle where someone was smoking at least once in the past 7 days.**
Clean Air for Kids in Cars
Protecting youth from secondhand smoke and e-cigarette aerosol in vehicles

Kids are at greater risk.
Children exposed to secondhand smoke have:
- Increased frequency of bronchitis
- More cases of pneumonia
- Reduced lung function
- Increased respiratory infections
- More chronic coughs
- Higher number of ear infections

How can we protect kids?
Minnesota can pass a statewide law that would prohibit smoking and the use of e-cigarettes 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 and e-cigarette aerosol 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, California and Illinois*: Under age 18

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*Effective June 2020

Americans for Non-smokers' Rights

February 2020