



Clean Air for Kids in Cars

Protecting youth from secondhand smoke and e-cigarette aerosol in vehicles

A passenger's exposure to secondhand smoke in a vehicle where someone is smoking is about equal to sitting in a smoky bar for 3 hours.

Nearly 23% of MN youth report riding in a vehicle where someone was smoking at least once in the past 7 days.



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.



Bohac, D., E. Waldart, and Z. Zhou, 2016. Passenger Vehicle Secondhand Smoke Particulate Measurements. ASHRAE and AIVC IAQ 2016, Alexandria, VA, 2016, Bohac et al 2010, and 2017 Minnesota Youth Tobacco Survey

Secondhand Smoke

There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.



7,000 chemicals



250 known toxins

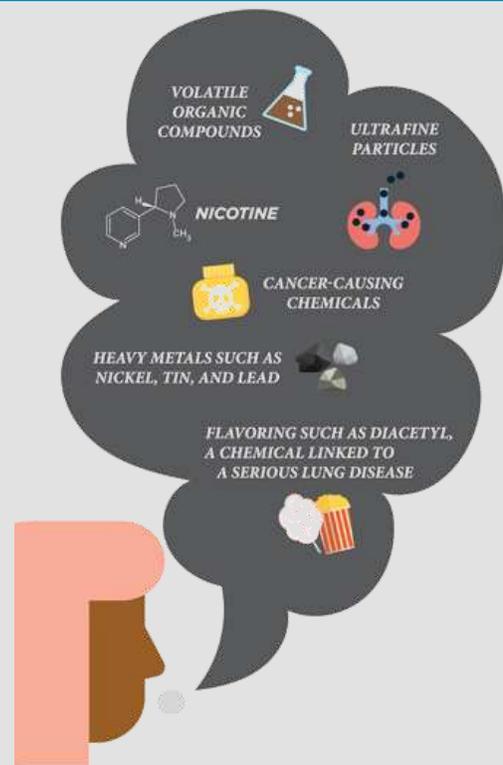


11 carcinogens



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

E-cigarette aerosol contains harmful chemicals





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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

CDC

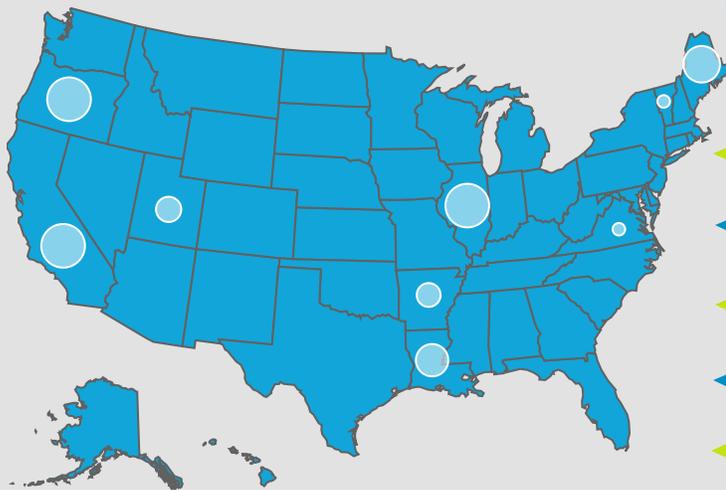
How can we protect kids?

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

Americans for Non-smokers' Rights

*Effective June 2020