Secondhand Smoke in Housing

There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke drifts through multi-unit buildings and can enter common areas and units occupied by non-smokers.

Secondhand smoke harms children by increasing the risk of asthma attacks, ear infections, respiratory infections, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), and behavioral problems.

Secondhand smoke drifts through doors, windows, hallways, and ventilation ducts, and through gaps around outlets, fixtures, and walls. Ventilation systems, air purifiers, and sealing up cracks cannot prevent secondhand smoke from drifting throughout buildings.

Up to 65% of the air in an apartment can come from other units in the building.

The only way to protect health is for buildings to be completely smokefree.

Residents NEED and WANT smokefree housing.

1 in 3 nonsmokers living in rental housing are exposed to secondhand smoke.

Only 30% of multi-unit residents live in smokefree buildings, but the majority would prefer their building to be smokefree.

Everyone deserves to breathe smokefree air at home.

A smokefree building is legal and is not discriminatory.

Residents have the right to speak up and ask for the building to be smokefree.

Healthier
- Reduce health risks

Cleaner
- Reduce smoke damage

Safer
- Reduce fire risk

Resources for residents & housing providers are available at no-smoke.org/at-risk-places/homes/