

Where is secondhand smoke a problem?

At work

The workplace is a major source of secondhand smoke exposure for adults. Secondhand smoke meets the standard to be classified as a potential cancer-causing agent by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the federal agency responsible for health and safety regulations in the workplace. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), another federal agency, also recommends that secondhand smoke be considered a possible carcinogen in the workplace. Because there are no known safe levels, they recommend that exposures to secondhand smoke be reduced to the lowest possible levels.

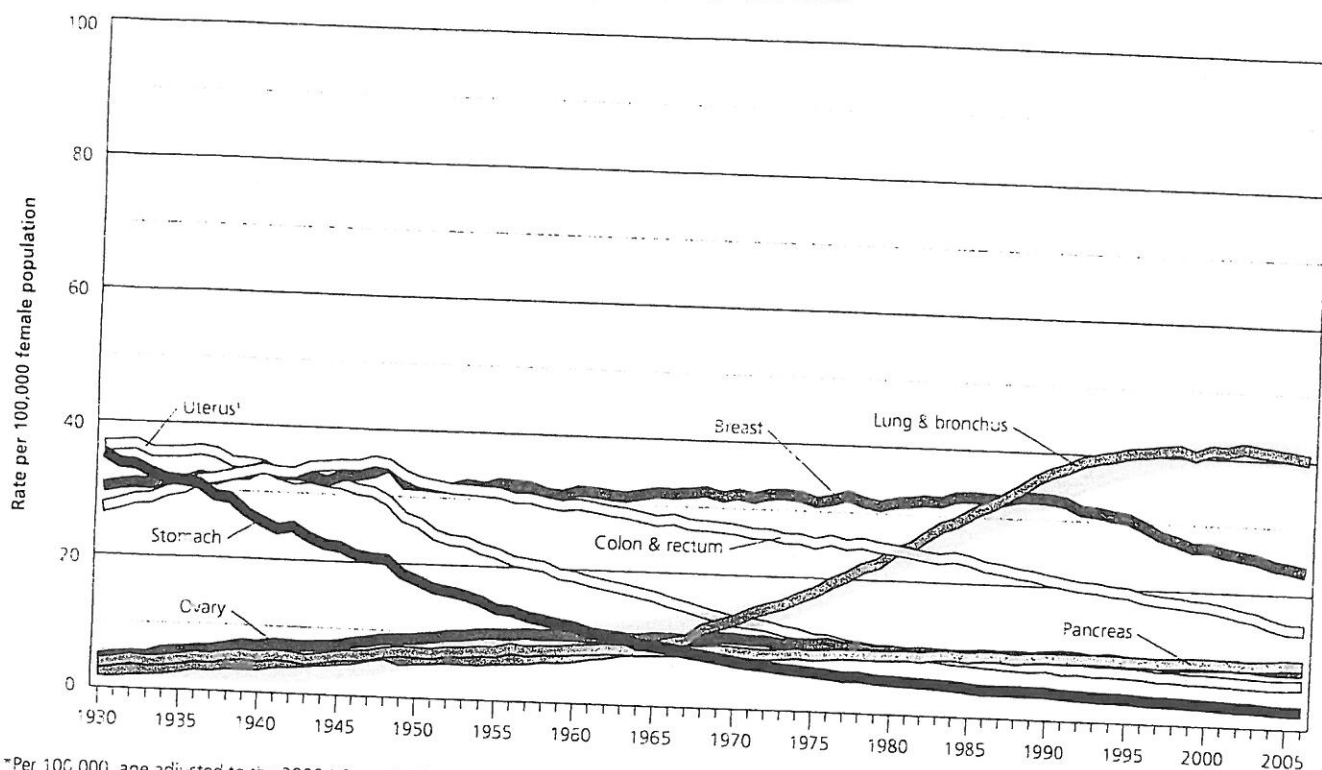
Secondhand smoke in the workplace has been linked to an increased risk for heart disease and lung cancer among adult non-smokers. The Surgeon General has said that smoke-free workplace policies are the only way to do away with secondhand smoke exposure at work. Separating smokers from non-smokers, cleaning the air, and ventilating the building cannot prevent exposure if people still smoke inside the building. An extra bonus other than protecting non-smokers is that workplace smoking restrictions may also encourage smokers to quit.

B.P. CCE/AFT-21 SAFETY CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

- A. The District shall furnish a place of employment which is safe for employees.
- B. The District shall not require any employee to be in a place of employment which is not safe. Unless there is clearly an emergency, no employee shall leave the employee's workstation without authorization of the employee's immediate supervisor.
- C. Employees have a responsibility to advise the District immediately of any unsafe condition(s).
- D. An employee may, when necessary, use reasonable force in the performance of his/her duties in the interests of self-protection. An employee also may take reasonable action for the protection of others, and for the protection of District, student or employee property. Under such circumstances, an employee must exercise mature judgment and must act and react in a reasonable and prudent manner.
- E. The District shall provide appropriate safety and security training for any employee required to handle hazardous or toxic chemicals.

from American Cancer Society, 2010:

Age-adjusted Cancer Death Rates,* Females by Site, US, 1930-2006



American Cancer Society, Surveillance and Health Policy Research, 2010

*Per 100,000, age adjusted to the 2000 US standard population. *Rates are uterine cervix and uterine corpus combined.

Note: Due to changes in ICD coding, numerator information has changed over time. Rates for cancer of the lung and bronchus, colon and rectum, and ovary are affected by these coding changes.

Source: US Mortality Data, 1960 to 2006, US Mortality Volumes, 1930 to 1959, National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2009.

Secondhand smoke kills children and adults who don't smoke, and makes others sick (Surgeon General's report)

The 2006 US Surgeon General's report reached some important conclusions:

- Secondhand smoke causes premature death and disease in children and in adults who do not smoke.
- Children exposed to secondhand smoke are at an increased risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory infections, ear problems, and more severe asthma. Smoking by parents causes breathing (respiratory) symptoms and slows lung growth in their children.
- Secondhand smoke immediately affects the heart and blood circulation in a harmful way. Over a longer time it also causes heart disease and lung cancer.
- * • The scientific evidence shows that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Many millions of Americans, both children and adults, are still exposed to secondhand smoke in their homes and workplaces despite a great deal of progress in tobacco control.
- The only way to fully protect non-smokers from exposure to secondhand smoke indoors is to prevent all smoking in that indoor space or building. Separating smokers from non-smokers, cleaning the air, and ventilating buildings cannot keep non-smokers from being exposed to secondhand smoke.

From
American
Lung
Association
2010