

# FACTS ABOUT SECOND-HAND SMOKE



**Second-hand smoke is the smoke emitted from the burning end of a cigarette or other smoking tobacco product. Second-hand smoke is the combination of mainstream smoke exhaled by the smoker and sidestream smoke emitted into the environment from lit cigarettes and other smoked tobacco products.**

- More than 1.3 million people die every year from illnesses related to exposure to second-hand smoke.
- The terms passive smoking, environmental smoke and involuntary smoking are often used to describe exposure to second-hand smoke. These terms can be misinterpreted, so the term second-hand smoke is recommended.
- A non-smoker who is exposed to second-hand smoke is also at increased risk of a number of diseases.
- The 100% tobacco smoke-free environment is the only way to ensure complete protection from exposure to second-hand smoke. There is no safe level of exposure to tobacco second-hand smoke.
- Smoke-free air is air that is 100% smoke free and in which tobacco smoke cannot be seen, smelled, sensed or measured.
- Heated tobacco products generate a mainstream aerosol and a sidestream aerosol. Bystanders may inhale nicotine and toxicants contained in the aerosol.
- Users of electronic nicotine delivery system and electronic non-nicotine delivery system products partially exhale the e-liquid back into the air, thereby increasing the concentration of particulate matter and nicotine in indoor environments.

## Source

Protect people from tobacco smoke [Infographic]. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2009 (<https://www.who.int/multi-media/details/mpower--protect-people-from-tobacco-smoke>, accessed 15 June 2023).

