



## **Surgeon General Report on the Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke**

On June 27, 2006, the Surgeon General released The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke. This report is an evaluation and synthesis of evidence regarding the health effects of exposure to secondhand smoke. The six major conclusions of the latest report are as follows:

1. Secondhand smoke causes premature death and disease in children and in adults who do not smoke.
2. Children exposed to secondhand smoke are at an increased risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory infections, ear problems, and more severe asthma. Smoking by parents causes respiratory symptoms and slows lung growth in their children.
3. Exposure of adults to secondhand smoke has immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system and causes coronary heart disease and lung cancer.
4. The scientific evidence indicates that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke.
5. Many millions of Americans, both children and adults, are still exposed to secondhand smoke in their homes and workplaces despite substantial progress in tobacco control.
6. Eliminating smoking in indoor spaces fully protects nonsmokers from exposure to secondhand smoke. Separating smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the air, and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate exposures of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke.

For a complete copy of the Surgeon General's report on second-hand smoke, go to <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/secondhandsmoke/report/>

For further information on tobacco visit the Centers for Disease Control website at <http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/>