

# How does secondhand smoke affect children?

## How does secondhand smoke affect a child's development?

- Increase in ear infections
- Increased risk of middle ear disease (can lead to deafness)
- Increased risk of cot death
- Increased risk of bacterial meningitis
- More coughs and colds
- More likely to develop behavioural issues such as ADHD

## How does secondhand smoke affect a child's breathing?

- Impaired lung function
- More risk of chest infections
- Increased risk of asthma/asthma made worse

## What might be the long term effects of secondhand smoke when the child grows up?

- Increased risk of lung cancer in later life, even if the child does not become a smoker
- More likely to go on to smoke themselves
- Increased risk of developing cardiovascular disease as adults, even if they don't smoke

## How will secondhand smoke affect the child socially?

- Clothes and hair likely to smell of smoke
- Other children likely to comment on smell
- Other parents may be less likely to allow their own child in the home

## Secondhand smoke also affects pets

- Dogs who live with a smoker are 60% more likely to develop lung cancer
- Cats living with smokers are twice as likely to get lymphoma (a type of cancer)

How does secondhand smoke affect children? worksheet – October 2024