

CDC Study on Second-Hand Smoke in Multi-Unit Homes

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) in the United States [recently published the results of a study](#) where it determined that Americans living in multi-unit housing, such as condominiums, are more likely to smoke and more likely to be exposed to second-hand smoke than those living in single-family homes. The study noted that second-hand smoke is transferred through walls, ductwork, windows and ventilation systems.

Based on the results of this study and the conclusions of the United States Surgeon General that there is no safe level of second-hand smoke, the authors of the study are advocating for the complete prohibition of smoking in interior places.

*“Completely eliminating smoking in indoor spaces is the only way to fully protect nonsmokers from SHS [Second Hand Smoke]; separating smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the air, and ventilating buildings do not completely eliminate SHS exposure.”¹ U.S. DHHS. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Secondhand Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*. U.S. DHHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, Atlanta, Georgia; 2006*

[See all References](#) | Accordingly, interventions are warranted to promote tobacco use cessation and smoke-free building policies in MUH [Multi-Unit Homes] to reduce tobacco use and protect all residents, employees, and visitors from SHS exposure.”

The study noted that while there are laws that prohibit smoking in the workplace, there are no laws which prohibit smoking in the home, which is the primary source of second-hand smoke for children.

While this study is based on American data, the comments about the negative ramifications of second-hand smoke has no geographical boundaries. However, at this point in time the call for a complete ban on smoking in condominium units is a controversial and drastic measure.

[Click here](#) to read the full study.