

# Rhinelandersafe **SMOKE-FREE AIR FOR EVERYONE**

RHINELANDER, WISCONSIN

## FACT SHEET SECONDHAND SMOKE AND CHILDREN

**Secondhand Smoke Puts The Unborn And Infants At Great Risk.** Secondhand smoke causes low birth weight babies and approximately 2,000 deaths annually in the US due to sudden infant baby syndrome (SIDS). Secondhand smoke causes between 150,000 and 300,000 cases of bronchitis, pneumonia and other lower respiratory tract infections in infants up to 18 months of age each year. These infections result in 7,500 to 15,000 hospitalizations each year.

Sources: CDC, American Lung Association

**Exposure Causes And Inflames Asthma In Children.** Up to 26,000 kids develop asthma from secondhand smoke every year. Secondhand smoke increases the severity and frequency of asthma attacks. Up to 1 million asthmatic kids in the US will have their condition worsened by inhaling the cigarette smoke of others.

Sources: CDC, EPA, American Lung Association

**Secondhand Smoke Impairs Learning.** Secondhand smoke is neurotoxic even at extremely low levels. More than 21.9 million children are estimated to be at risk of reading deficits because of secondhand smoke. Higher levels of exposure are also associated with greater deficits in math and visuospatial reasoning.

Source: National Institutes of Health

**Secondhand Smoke Damages Developing Spinal Cord.** Secondhand smoke exposure during childhood has been associated with an increased risk of spinal pain, such as neck and back pain in adult life. Studies suggest this may be due to the negative effects of smoke exposure during childhood on the developing spine

Source: European Journal of Public Health