



There is no safe level of secondhand smoke —especially for children.

- When a smoker lights a cigarette, more than 7,000 chemicals are released into the air, hundreds of which are hazardous. Secondhand smoke contains 11 known cancer-causing poisons and 250 known toxins.²
- Children exposed to secondhand smoke inhale the same cancer-causing substances and poisons as smokers.¹
- Secondhand smoke is a known cause of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), potentially fatal respiratory infections, frequent and severe asthma attacks, and ear infections.¹
- Children are particularly susceptible to the risks of secondhand smoke, as their bodies are still developing.¹
- More than 40 percent of children who visit the emergency room for asthma live with smokers.¹

Smoke-free foster care protects the health of our children.

- Foster families provide critical and nurturing care to some of Minnesota's most vulnerable children. In 2012, nearly 8,000 Minnesota children were placed in foster care.³
- Nearly 80 percent of the more than 400,000 children who live in foster homes in the United States have at least one chronic medical condition.⁴
- More than half of all states have smoke-free foster care policies. In Minnesota, Beltrami, Cottonwood, Lake, Steele, Jackson, Redwood, Dakota and St. Louis counties and Bois Forte Indian Reservation have passed smoke-free foster care policies.
- Smoke-free foster care policies are supported by the National Foster Parent Association.⁵
- States with smoke-free foster care policies report acceptance of the policies and few problems with recruitment, retention, implementation or enforcement.⁶

The public supports reducing secondhand smoke exposure.

78% of Minnesotans believe that secondhand smoke continues to impact our health.⁸

93% of Minnesotans support smoke-free foster care.⁷



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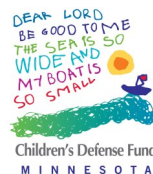


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Citations:

- ¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report to the Surgeon General*, June 27, 2006. <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/secondhandsmoke/index.html>.
- ² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking-Attributable Disease: A Report of the Surgeon General*, 2010. http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/tobaccosmoke/full_report.pdf.
- ³ Minnesota Department of Human Services. *Foster-care: Temporary out-of-home care for children*. <http://mn.gov/dhs/media/fact-sheets/>. April 2013.
- ⁴ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Admin. Children and Families, Children's Bureau, *Adoption and Foster-care Analysis and Reporting System Report*, 2010. http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/afcars/tar/report17.pdf; see also U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Admin. *Children and Families: Trends in Foster-care and Adoption — FY 2002–FY 2011, 2012.*, http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/trends_fostercare_adoption.pdf.
- ⁵ Public Health Law Center, *Smoke-free Foster Care: Policy Options and the Duty to Protect* (2d ed., 2013), available at http://publichealthlawcenter.org/sites/default/files/resources/phlc-policybrief-smokefreefostercare-2013_0.pdf
- ⁶ Hennepin County (Minnesota) Human Services and Public Health Department, Public Health Promotion. *Effects of Other States' Smoking Prohibitions on Child Foster Care*, February 9, 2011. <http://www.hennepin.us/files/HennepinUS/HSPHD/Community%20Services/Public%20Health%20Promotion/Health%20at%20the%20Community%20Level/Report%20on%20Smoking%20in%20Child%20Foster%20Care%20Facilities.pdf>.
- ⁷ Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, Minnesota E-cigarette Survey by the Morris Leatherman Company, January 2014.
- ⁸ Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, Tobacco Tax Survey by Decision Resources, December 2012.