

***A note on the risks of environmental or ambient tobacco smoke.***

Environmental Tobacco Smoke: A Hazard to Children

Results of epidemiologic studies provide strong evidence that exposure of children to environmental tobacco smoke is associated with increased rates of lower respiratory illness and increased rates of middle ear effusion, asthma, and sudden infant death syndrome. Exposure during childhood may also be associated with development of cancer during adulthood. This statement reviews the health effects of environmental tobacco smoke on children and offers pediatricians a strategy for promoting a smoke-free environment.

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