



SECOND HAND SMOKE AND CHILDREN

- Second hand smoke (SHS) harms everyone---smokers and non-smokers.
- Secondhand smoke is especially harmful to young children.
 - Secondhand smoke is responsible for between 150,000 and 300,000 lower respiratory tract infections in infants and children under 18 months of age, resulting in between 7,500 and 15,000 hospitalizations each year; and,
 - It causes 1,900 to 2,700 sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) deaths in the United States annually.
- Secondhand smoke exposure may cause buildup of fluid in the middle ear, resulting in 700,000 to 1.6 million physician office visits per year.
- Secondhand smoke can also aggravate symptoms in 200,000 to 1,000,000 children with asthma.
- In the United States, 21 million, or 35 percent of, children live in homes where residents or visitors smoke in the home on a regular basis.
- Approximately 50-75 percent of children in the United States have detectable levels of cotinine, the breakdown product of nicotine in the blood.
- Guam has the highest rate for adult smoking among all the US States and Territories. One in three adults smokes on Guam; many of them smoke around children.
- 57% of Guam middle school students live with a smoker.
- 44% of Middle School students reported riding in a car with a smoker in the past week.
- A child who lives with a smoker inhales the equivalent of 102 packs of cigarettes by the age of 5.
- The best way to protect children from second hand smoke is to keep their surroundings completely smoke-free.

KEEP GUAM'S CHILDREN HEALTHY---KEEP THEIR ENVIRONMENT TOBACCO-FREE!