



Passive smoking and children

A report by the Tobacco Advisory Group
of the Royal College of Physicians

Protecting children is a health priority. Adult smoking behaviour must radically change to achieve that. This report identifies the reasons why and what should be done to achieve it.

(Foreword by Sir Liam Donaldson, Chief Medical Officer)

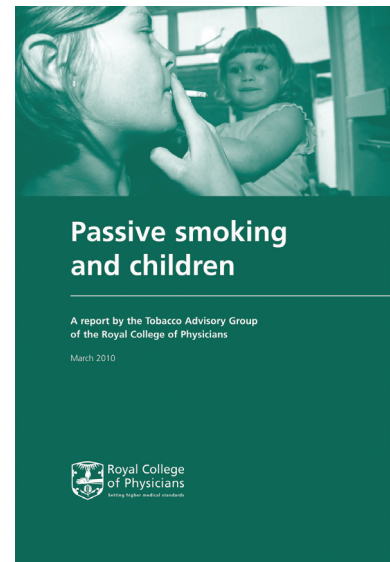
Passive smoking is a major hazard to the health of millions of children who live with smokers. Although legislation in the UK has now prohibited smoking in enclosed public places and in workplaces, the vast majority of death and illness is caused by passive smoking in the home, rather than outside it.

As well as summarising data from hundreds of existing studies, this report sets out new research that quantifies just how damaging passive smoking in the home is to children, and the harm done to the fetus by maternal smoking. It also assesses the likelihood of adult smokers increasing the risk that their children will themselves become smokers.

The report estimates, for example, that over 20,000 cases of lower respiratory tract infection, 120,000 cases of middle ear disease, and at least 22,000 new cases of wheeze and asthma are all caused by passive smoking in children each year in the UK; and that around 23,000 young people take up smoking before the age of 16 as a result of exposure to smoking by others in their household.

The financial costs of the disease burden caused by passive smoking, the level of public support for further legislation, the ethical issues involved, and the policy responses that are needed to minimise exposure in the future, are all set out clearly in this seminal document. It should be read by health professionals in all areas, but particularly those working with children, in obstetrics and in public health, and by politicians, health policy-makers, and tobacco control charities, as well as members of the public interested in creating a healthier, smoke-free environment for all children.

Supported by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health



Invitation

European Parliament policy debate

Passive smoking and children's health: new evidence and call for action

Wednesday 23 June 2010, 11.45 – 14.30

European Parliament, Room P5B001, Brussels

Hosted by Marina Yannakoudakis MEP and Theodoros Skylakakis MEP

Passive smoking in the home is a major hazard to the health of the millions of children who live with smokers. A major new report from the Tobacco Advisory Group of the Royal College of Physicians (London) – a member of the European Public Health Alliance – quantifies the extent of the problem and provides powerful evidence to support the implementation of the 2009 EU Council Recommendation and European Parliament Resolution on Smoke Free Environments.



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This unique event will bring together leading experts, EU policy makers and stakeholders to:

- consider the report's groundbreaking findings, which include new scientific evidence of the health impact and economic cost of passive smoking, and recommendations for action
- discuss further action to protect children's health from tobacco smoke.

The event is organised jointly by the Royal College of Physicians and the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) and will feature high-level contributions including:

- **Professor John Britton**, Chair, Tobacco Advisory Group of the Royal College of Physicians; Director of UK Centre for Tobacco Control Studies
- **Martin Dockrell**, Director of research and policy, Action on Smoking and Health
- **Anna Gilmore**, Reader in public health, University of Bath; Senior lecturer, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- **Trinidad Jiménez**, Minister of Health and Social Policy, Spain (tbc)
- **Monika Kosinska**, Secretary General, European Public Health Alliance
- **Michal Krzyzanowski**, Regional Adviser for air quality and health; Acting Head of European Centre for Environment and Health, WHO Regional Office for Europe
- **Kari Paaso**, Director, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland (tbc)
- **Terje Peetso**, Public Health and Risk Assessment Directorate, European Commission
- **Catriona Williams**, President, Eurochild
- **High level representatives** from EU/international organisations and Member States.

A networking lunch will be provided before the event.

To register and for more details contact eleanor@epha.org with your full name and organisation. If you require a European Parliament pass, please also send your date of birth and passport number.