



POLICY INITIATIVE 2

Expand Prevention of Thirdhand Smoke Exposure in CA Housing



THE PROBLEM

Thirdhand smoke is the mixture of chemicals left behind on clothes, skin, furniture, walls, and other surfaces after someone smokes or vapes. The mixture of pollutants in this chemical residue is toxic to humans and pets, containing over 25 chemicals listed in California's Proposition 65 because they are known to cause cancer or reproductive harm. People can be exposed to this residue through their skin, by breathing polluted air, and by ingesting residue on contaminated objects.

Thirdhand smoke chemical residue can linger for years after smoking has stopped, and it can be difficult and expensive to remove. Currently, Californians are not informed about the smoking history of the home they are about to buy or rent, nor are they educated about the hazards of thirdhand smoke, since the Residential Environmental Hazards Guide does not include tobacco smoke residue. As a result, unsuspecting buyers and renters may find themselves stuck in housing that can make them sick.

OVERVIEW

We will conduct four rapid response projects (RRPs) to develop an updated Residential Environmental Hazards Guide with thirdhand smoke education, assess the acceptability of a smokefree multi-unit housing mandate for new housing, and investigate the effectiveness of remediation and testing for thirdhand smoke.

RRP #1

| How We Will Do It

Educate California home buyers and renters on the hazards of thirdhand smoke.

- Develop thirdhand smoke information for the California Residential Environmental Hazards Guide.
- State-wide consumer testing of the information.

RRP #2

| How We Will Do It

Examine Californian's views of smokefree multi-unit housing.

- Conduct an online survey of California residents.
- Conduct key informant interviews with key stakeholders and electeds.

RRP #3

| How We Will Do It

Document current practices for remediating thirdhand smoke pollution.

- Conduct interviews with remediation professionals to...
- Determine current practices.
 - Assess the perceived effectiveness and limitations of common methods.

RRP #4

| How We Will Do It

Evaluate commercially available thirdhand smoke test kits.

- Collect side-by-side nicotine samples via surface wipes.
- Compare the accuracy and sensitivity of different commercially available thirdhand smoke test kits.

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