Healthy Home Template Letter to the Editor

Drafted May 21, 2021

**Secondhand Smoke Exposure in the Home: Still a Problem for Many**

Dear Editor,

LET READERS KNOW THAT JUNE IS HEALTHY HOMES MONTH, WHICH RAISES AWARENESS OF HOUSING-RELATED HEALTH HAZARDS, AND ENCOURAGES TAKING STEPS TO MAKE HOMES SAFE AND HEALTHY. SHARE THAT SECONDHAND SMOKE IS A MAJOR HEALTH HAZARD.

WHILE OVERALL EXPOSURE TO SECONDHAND SMOKE IN THE HOME HAS DECREASED, SOME POPULATIONS ARE STILL EXPOSED TO IT REGULARLY. **INCLUDE EXAMPLES FROM THIS LINK:** [**https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\_statistics/fact\_sheets/secondhand\_smoke/general\_facts/index.htm**](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/secondhand_smoke/general_facts/index.htm) **(SCROLL DOWN TO THE HEADER -- DISPARITIES IN SECONDHAND SMOKE EXPOSURE)**.

SHARE THAT SECONDHAND SMOKE EXPOSURE OCCURS MORE IN MULTI-UNIT HOUSING, WHICH IS MORE COMMONLY POPULATED BY PEOPLE OF COLOR AND MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES. DISCUSS HOUSING DISCRIMINATION’S AND RACIST POLICIES’ ROLE IN SEGREGATING COMMUNITIES AND LEAVING SOME POPULATIONS AT-RISK **(VIEW PAGE FIVE OF THIS LINK FOR LANGUAGE EXPLORING THE ROOTS OF THIS ISSUE:** [**https://uwmadison.app.box.com/s/v5p7pwlo5y36zxbc8rj0uuo3uaggsfqs/file/750631394382**](https://uwmadison.app.box.com/s/v5p7pwlo5y36zxbc8rj0uuo3uaggsfqs/file/750631394382)**)**. DETAIL SOME OF THE FACTORS THAT LEAD TO HIGHER RATES IN CERTAIN POPULATIONS **(EXAMPLES: INDUSTRY TARGETING, FEWER SMOKE-FREE POLICIES --** [**https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/targeted-communities/why-tobacco-racial-justice-issue**](https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/targeted-communities/why-tobacco-racial-justice-issue)**, OR RETAILER DENSITY --** [**https://countertobacco.org/resources-tools/evidence-summaries/disparities-in-point-of-sale-advertising-and-retailer-density/**](https://countertobacco.org/resources-tools/evidence-summaries/disparities-in-point-of-sale-advertising-and-retailer-density/)**).**

DISCUSS THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF SECONDHAND SMOKE EXPOSURE, ESPECIALLY HOW HARMFUL IT IS TO CHILDREN **(PULL FROM THIS LINK UNDER “HEALTH EFFECTS OF SECONDHAND SMOKE --** [**https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\_statistics/fact\_sheets/secondhand\_smoke/general\_facts/index.htm**](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/secondhand_smoke/general_facts/index.htm)**).**

LET READERS KNOW THEY CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF SMOKE-FREE HOUSING AT WISMOKEFREEHOUSING.COM. ENCOURAGE INDIVIDUALS WHO SMOKE TO CALL 1-800-QUIT NOW (784-8669) FOR FREE HELP, OR IF THEY’RE ON MEDICAID, TALKING TO THEIR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER ABOUT THE FREE HELP PROVIDED THROUGH MEDICAID’S CESSATION BENEFIT.