

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 19, 2007 12:14 PM

**Subject:** Child Passenger Safety and Second-Hand Smoke

Dear Child Passenger Safety Advocates,

Similar to injuries to children from improperly installed car seats, childhood illness from [secondhand smoke](#) exposure in cars is preventable. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ([NHTSA](#)) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ([EPA](#)) [Indoor Environments Division](#) are dedicated to protecting children from the heightened risk of injury and illness in cars. With your help, parents and caregivers can learn how to prevent child passengers from being injured and becoming ill from secondhand smoke in cars.

The [U.S. Surgeon General has reported](#) that secondhand smoke is a known cause of respiratory problems, ear infections, asthma attacks, and even sudden infant death syndrome in infants and children. While many smokers open a window or increase the ventilation in their cars, the child passenger is still exposed to secondhand smoke. When you are educating families about car seat safety, you may also want to give them written information, such as EPA's [Smoke-free Homes & Cars](#) educational materials which are free and available for downloading and distribution.

What you can do to help:

- Share this e-mail with your affiliates, colleagues, and others in the child passenger safety community.
- Download materials from EPA to give to parents and caregivers during car seat safety inspections or other car safety events.
- Talk to organizations in your community that reach parents and caregivers of young children about the effects of secondhand smoke.

To download, print and/or order *Smoke free Homes and Cars* materials, see [www.epa.gov/smokefree/publications.html](http://www.epa.gov/smokefree/publications.html)



### Secondhand Tobacco Smoke and the Health of Your Family

- [PDF Version](#) (Bilingual) (PDF, 2 pp, 838KB)

This bilingual brochure explains the basics about the dangers of secondhand smoke to families, especially to children.

### Protect Your Children: Take the Smoke-free Homes Pledge (Bilingual)



- PDF Version [English](#) (PDF, 4 pp, 540KB)
- PDF Version [Spanish](#) (PDF, 4 pp, 609KB)

Learn about the harmful health risks of secondhand smoke exposure to children in this bilingual brochure. The brochure contains health information and actions to reduce exposure. It also encourages families to pledge to make their homes and cars smoke-free by visiting EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/smokefree](http://www.epa.gov/smokefree).



### Smoke-free Homes and Cars Placement

- [PDF Version](#) (PDF, 2 pp, 1.6MB)

The bilingual placemat is designed for children and has a message for parents on one side and the other side is for children to color.



### Smoke-free Car Zone Decal

- [PDF Version](#) (PDF, 1 page, 26KB)
- [JPG File](#) (JPG, 1 page, 29KB)

To support your smoke-free homes and cars for children outreach efforts post the smoke-free zone car message. Give the message to parents and caregivers to display on a window in their home and/or car.

For more information on EPA's Smoke-free Homes and Cars Program, see [www.epa.gov/smokefree](http://www.epa.gov/smokefree)

Alexander W. (Sandy) Sinclair  
 U.S. Department of Transportation/NHTSA  
 Occupant Protection Division, NTI-112  
 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
 West Building, Fourth Floor, W44-239  
 Washington, DC 20590  
 (202) 366-2723

