TOBACCO USE AND SECONDHAND SMOKE EXPOSURE IS HIGH IN MULTI-UNIT HOUSING

Over 1 million (1 in 8) people in Virginia live in multi-unit housing, such as apartments.

Many who live in public housing are affected by secondhand smoke including children, the elderly and people with disabilities.

Even in smokefree multi-unit housing, 34 percent of residents report that smoke involuntarily enters their homes from somewhere in or around the building.

There is no safe level of secondhand smoke exposure.

Secondhand smoke can travel within multi-unit housing and common areas through doorways, cracks in walls, electrical lines, ventilation systems, and plumbing.

Opening windows and using fans does not completely remove secondhand smoke.

Heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems cannot eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke.

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