

# The children breathe air regularly polluted by

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the causes of second hand smoke includes serious cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. In infants, it causes sudden death and in pregnant women, low birthweight and more than 890, 000 premature deaths per year. Almost half of the children breathe air regularly polluted by tobacco smoke in public places. In 2004, children were accounted for the 28% of the deaths attributed to second hand smoking.

Children with a parent who smokes are three times more likely to smoke. It is estimated that each year at least 23, 000 young people in England and Wales start smoking by the age of 15 as a result of exposure to smoking at home (RCP, 2010). This is the reason why a new legislation in England and Wales made it illegal to smoke in a vehicle carrying someone under the age of 18 and the fine for the offence is £50. This law is to protect children and young people from the damaging effects of second-hand smoke, which can put them at risk of serious health implications (Public Health of England).

Smoking worsens poverty in adults with mental conditions in the UK. Analysis from the Health Survey for England and the Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey reports that the number of adults in the UK with mental health problems and who currently smoke are considered as living in poverty if their expenditure on tobacco is being taken from their household income. The analysis found that smoking prevalence is very high with adults in poverty who have a mental problem with an estimated 900, 000 to 1. 2 million people with a common mental disorder living in poverty who are currently smokers.

10% of the estimated 1.3 million poor smokers with a common mental health problem would be lifted from poverty if they were to quit smoking because the average annual expenditure of a poor smoker with a mental disorder is about £1220. Therefore smoking creates a very significant financial burden to an individual in a deprived group (Social Care Institute for Excellence- Mental health, smoking and poverty in the UK, 2016.)