Nobody around me smokes. Can I still be exposed to thirdhand smoke?

Yes, even if nobody around you smokes, you can still be exposed to thirdhand smoke. This is because tobacco smoke residue accumulates in an enclosed space, like a home or car, and remains on surfaces, in dust, and in materials for years after smoking has stopped.

We know that thirdhand smoke can be found even in homes with strict no smoking rules. Thirdhand smoke has been found in homes of non-smokers where smokers have previously lived, in non-smoking rooms at hotels that allow smoking on the premises, and inside cars where drivers or passengers have smoked. In an enclosed space, such as a home, car, or hotel room, the behavior of previous owners and residents can expose you to thirdhand smoke, even if no one around you smokes.

Sources


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