

THIRDHAND SMOKE RESOURCE CENTER

POLICY ROUNDTABLE SERIES



WORKPLACE POLICIES

February 17, 2021

9:00-10:00AM PST

Thirdhand Smoke Resource Center

Mission: To share **information, resources, and technical support** with California's residents, communities, businesses, health care professionals, and policymakers about the toxic legacy of tobacco smoke residue and to achieve **indoor environments that are 100% free of tobacco smoke toxicants.**



Agenda

- 9:00-9:10: Thirdhand smoke in the workplace
- 9:10-9:40: Breakout room discussions
- 9:40-10:00: Regroup

GOAL:

Share challenges, brainstorm together, and receive thirdhand smoke technical assistance

Thirdhand smoke

- Thirdhand smoke is the chemical residue left behind on clothes, skin, furniture, walls, and other surfaces **months and years** after smoking stops.
- The gases and particles in thirdhand smoke are toxic to humans, especially children.

Thirdhand smoke in the workplace

- Sticky residue can stay on clothes, items, or seating after smoking has stopped, thereby exposing others who come into contact with those items (e.g., truck seat; mail).
- Certain occupational groups are more likely to be exposed to thirdhand smoke in their workplaces.
- Mail room
- Truck driver

The Case of the Mailroom Clerk



The Case of the USPS Worker



Results: Secondhand and Thirdhand Smoke

Figure 1: Observed **surface wipe** nicotine levels in workplace vehicles (micrograms of nicotine per square meter, $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$; green triangles) with reference levels from nonsmokers (blue) and smokers with (light red) and without (dark red) indoor smoking bans.

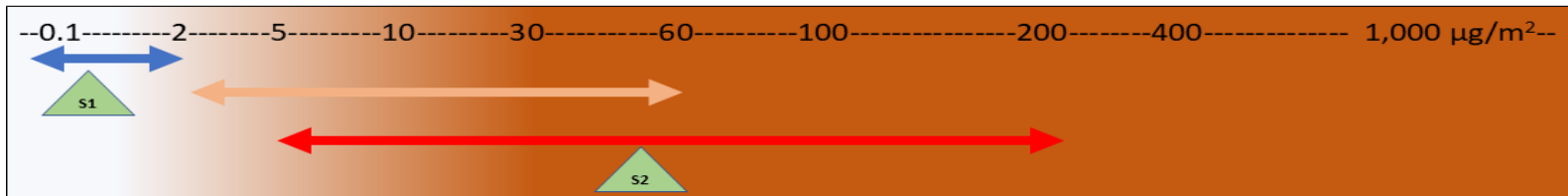
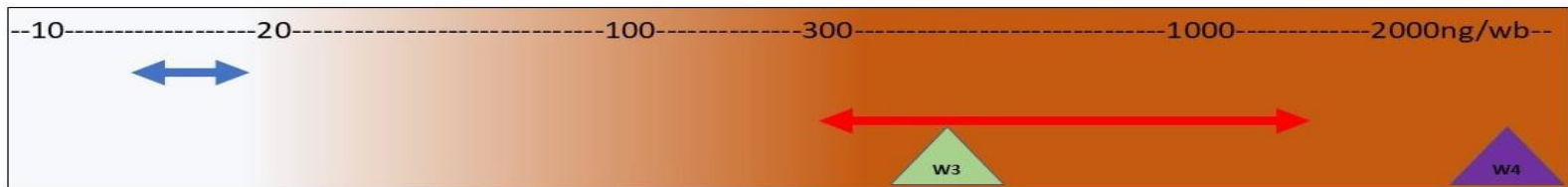


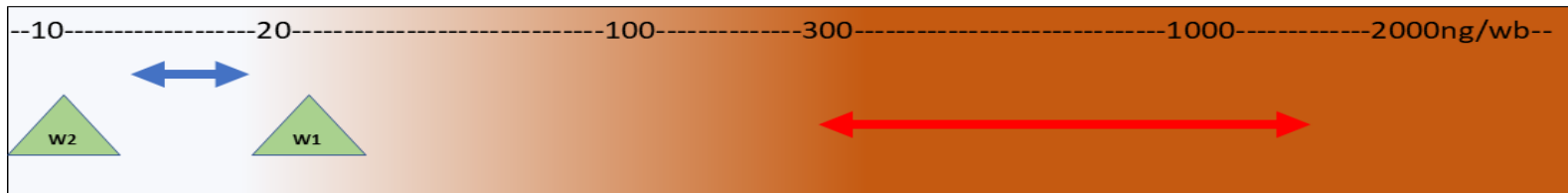
Figure 3: Observed **wristband nicotine levels in wristbands deployed in workplace vehicles** (nanograms of nicotine per wristband; green triangle “clean” vehicle and purple triangle “dirty” vehicle) with reference levels from children of nonsmokers (blue) and smokers who smoke indoors (dark red).



Results:

Secondhand and Thirdhand Smoke

Figure 2: Observed **wristband nicotine levels in wristbands worn by adults** (nanograms of nicotine per wristband; green triangles) with reference levels from children of nonsmokers (blue) and smokers who smoke indoors (dark red).



Policy area: Workplaces

- CA law prohibits discrimination based on smoking status or history
- Identify at-risk workplaces
- Provide interventions
- Fund cessation programs

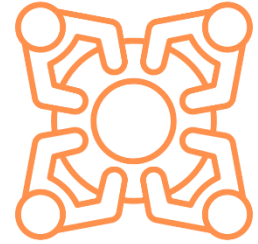
Time to discuss



Guidelines:

- During discussion:
 - Introduce yourself
 - Share your email address in your group's chat (if you are comfortable with that)
 - Designate a leader who will present to the whole group when we reconvene
 - If nobody volunteers, it's the person with the email address that is lowest alphabetically!
- During regroup:
 - We will call on the representative from each group to share their 1-point take-home for each question
 - We will share new materials
- After the roundtable:
 - Share materials via our Drive folder
 - Connect with us!

Time to discuss



Discussion questions:

1. What creative solutions have you used (or want to use) to advance smokefree workplace policies?
2. Tips for working with individual workplaces
3. Tips for working on jurisdiction-wide policies

Please prepare a 30-second answer for any or all of the above

1-point take-homes (creative solutions / general)

- What is (not) permitted re:smoking. Smokefree policies are not clear about where smoking is allowed (e.g., company vehicles); lack of enforcement
 - **Define where it is and is not permitted**
 - Repercussions are detailed
- Need to educate people about second- and thirdhand smoke
- Indoor club? Cigar shop? Marijuana dispensary? Casinos? How do we protect those employees?
- How to protect outdoor diners and employees?
 - Especially during COVID era (outside activities that would ordinarily be indoors)
- Pre-COVID: winery owners dealing with vaping not being considered smoking
- Outdoor dining restaurants that go smokefree – put ads in papers thanking them for going smokefree
 - Incentivize with table tents and umbrellas that have cessation info and tobacco control sponsors (Orange County)
 - Voluntary outdoor dining

1-point take-homes: Individual workplaces

- Property managers who moved into a place with thirdhand smoke?
- Voluntary smokefree policies
- Outdoor dining restaurants that go smokefree – put ads in papers thanking them for going smokefree
 - Incentivize with table tents and umbrellas that have cessation info and tobacco control sponsors (Orange County)

1-point take-homes: Jurisdiction-wide policies

- Legislative smokefree policy
- Long-term
- Gather information from other cities that had implemented similar policies to learn from them
- Smokefree living spaces list for interested constituents
- Smokefree outdoor area policies – get support from business community and/or chamber of commerce
 - Provide public comment at city council meeting
- Collect data and surveys from others
 - Local level data

From the Center

- MUH and Thirdhand Smoke Resource Guide
- Google drive
- <https://thirdhandsmoke.org/get-involved/work-for-policy-change/>

THIRDHAND
SMOKE Resource Center

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Resource guide



Resource Kit: Workplaces and Thirdhand Smoke

This packet provide accessible explanations of what thirdhand smoke is, how it behaves, its consequences, and why it matters for workplaces. Each of the following 9 questions and more can be found in English at <https://thirdhandsmoke.org/faq/> or in Spanish at <https://thirdhandsmoke.org/category/pregunta-de-la-semana/>.

What is thirdhand smoke and why should I care?

1. What surfaces does tobacco smoke stick to? [\[English\]](#) [\[Español\]](#)
2. What tobacco products contribute to thirdhand smoke? [\[English\]](#) [\[Español\]](#)
3. How are you exposed to thirdhand smoke? [\[English\]](#) [\[Español\]](#)
4. What do we know about the health risks of thirdhand smoke? [\[English\]](#)
5. Are there tests for thirdhand smoke? [\[English\]](#)

What does thirdhand smoke have to do with workplaces?

6. People can still bring in thirdhand smoke to the workplace [\[English\]](#) [\[Español\]](#)
7. Some policies protect workers from thirdhand smoke in the workplace [\[English\]](#)
8. Thirdhand smoke decreases the value of property [\[English\]](#)
9. Smokefree properties save lives and money [\[English\]](#) [\[Español\]](#)
10. The CDC has concluded that people in certain industries experience greater secondhand smoke, the precursor to thirdhand smoke [\[English\]](#)
11. Other companies have adopted smoke-free policies [\[English\]](#)

Thank you!

Contact Information:

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