



# SMOKE-FREE HOUSING IN NYC

The ability to live in a smoke-free home is a luxury not all New Yorkers are afforded. While many condos, co-ops, and rentals in NYC are increasingly going smoke-free, this positive trend has been slow to reach New Yorkers who live in affordable, public, or rent-regulated housing. **NYC Smoke-Free**, a program of Public Health Solutions, works to ensure no family or child is forced to endure harmful secondhand smoke pollution in their homes.

## SMOKE-FREE HOUSING BENEFITS EVERYONE

Smoke-free housing protects the health of all New Yorkers, saves landlords and property owners money, and is strongly supported by the public. Smoke-free buildings either restrict smoking to a designated outdoor area, or prohibit smoking altogether, including in individual apartments, indoor common areas, and any outdoor space.

- 44% of multi-unit housing residents who do not smoke inside have experienced secondhand smoke in their unit
- Smoking causes 7,600 fires in residential buildings each year in the US
- Smoking adds \$3,000 to unit refurbishing and cleaning expenses



## SMOKE-FREE PUBLIC HOUSING LEADS TO HEALTHIER RESIDENTS

As of July 2018, all New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) housing has been smoke-free, complying with a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulation for all federally-funded public housing in the US. NYCHA's policy promotes the health of public housing residents and staff by reducing their exposure to secondhand smoke.

- As of July 30, 2018, NYCHA has been smoke-free — meaning the use of cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and hookah pipes is prohibited in apartments, indoor common areas, and within 25 feet of public housing buildings
- More than 1/3 of NYCHA residents reported having 1 or more child with asthma, and were twice as likely to have asthma than the general population before this policy
- 400,000 New Yorkers who live in NYCHA housing are no longer exposed to harmful secondhand smoke in their homes



## CHILDREN AND THE ELDERLY ARE MOST AT-RISK

Smoke-free housing policies ensure that New Yorkers who are at risk, especially children and the elderly, can live healthy lives free from the dangers of secondhand smoke. Children and seniors — who make up nearly half of all NYCHA residents — are most impacted by secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke can lead to many health conditions that are deadly for children and seniors:

- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
- Ear and respiratory infections
- Asthma
- Stroke and heart attack
- Cancer

17 percent of people 60-79 years old have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or asthma — both of which are frequently caused by smoking or exposure to secondhand smoke.

## SMOKE-FREE HOUSING'S HISTORY IN NYC



2008

**ONLY ONE RENTAL LISTING IS AVAILABLE IN A BUILDING ADVERTISED AS NON-SMOKING**

2014

**THE NUMBER OF RENTAL LISTINGS AVAILABLE IN SMOKE-FREE BUILDINGS INCREASES TO 1,488**

2018

**ALL NYCHA PROPERTIES IMPLEMENT A SMOKE-FREE POLICY, BENEFITING OVER 400,000 NEW YORKERS WHO LIVE IN NYCHA HOUSING**

**ALL NYC BUILDING OWNERS ARE REQUIRED TO CREATE AND DISCLOSE A SMOKING POLICY TO CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE RESIDENTS — GIVING NEW YORKERS CRUCIAL INFORMATION WHEN CHOOSING WHERE TO LIVE**

**SMOKING AND USE OF E-CIGARETTES IS PROHIBITED IN COMMON AREAS IN MULTIPLE DWELLINGS WITH FEWER THAN TEN UNITS**

## CONTACT US

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