

VOICES/Are you bothered by other people's tobacco smoke?



Collins Walker, 45
Banker
Concord, Calif.

The concern about secondhand smoke is legitimate. Even though I smoke, I don't wish to pass my negative habit on to others. I am very cognizant about the feelings of others. As a result, I don't smoke at home or at work. I smoke in the car, and I smoke mainly to eliminate frustration and to pass the time.



Brenda Cox, 47
Bookkeeper
Lexington, Ky.

I have never paid any attention to secondhand smoke because I have never smoked. I have never had the desire to smoke or drink. It's too expensive. I'm not really bothered by secondhand smoke, and I don't get upset about it. The only thing I don't like is when the smoke is blowing directly in my face.



Hal Meyers, 34
Marine service dept.
Toledo, Ohio

Passive smoking bothers me. I don't enjoy it, but there's nothing I can do. There are very few places you can go that are exclusively for non-smokers. I don't like going home with my clothes smelling of smoke. I don't let anyone smoke in my home. I used to smoke, but I gave it up for health reasons.



Kay Richardson, 29
National Guard
Seward, Neb.

I used to smoke about a pack a week. My husband smokes a lot. Right now, I'm six months pregnant. When I found out in January, I stopped right away. My husband still smokes, and I get a lot of secondhand smoke from him. When I smoked, it didn't bother me. Now, it does. I feel as though I'm smoking.



Antonia C. Novello, 46
U.S. surgeon general
Washington, D.C.

Passive smoking is a major cause of disease in healthy non-smokers. In 1988, 434,000 deaths were attributed directly to cigarette smoking, and an estimated 53,000 Americans die each year from exposure to tobacco smoke of others. If you smoke, quit. If you can't, be aware your smoke may be harmful.



Roger Hawkins, 40
Assistant manager
Gastonia, N.C.

I'm glad they outlawed smoking on planes and in some restaurants. There are so many other pollutants in the air that you have to breathe in. I work in a bowling center, where many people smoke. The place is well-ventilated so you don't get that much smoke. I used to smoke, but I stopped 12 years ago.

QUOTELINES

"The work in question was very thoroughly reviewed by the EPA and a large number of outside reviewers."

— Dr. Stanton Glantz, U. of Calif., San Francisco,
contributor to EPA report

"Thirty-seven thousand (heart disease deaths) may be a figure of Stan Glantz's imagination . . . or it may be a real estimate."

— Robert Axelrad, EPA

"Government just doesn't dare go the limit in challenging a big, financially powerful industry. There's no doubt that the government is scared to bring this kind of report out."

— Dr. Alan Blum, Doctors Ought to Care