

WEST VIRGINIA  
Department of



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**For Immediate Release**

## Surgeon General Reports There is No Safe Level of Secondhand Smoke

In the newly released Surgeon General's Report: *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke*, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), exposure to secondhand smoke is responsible for over 3,000 lung cancer deaths and more than 46,000 coronary heart disease deaths among never smokers in the United States each year. It can also cause SIDS and severe asthma attacks in children. "Smokers need to be aware of how their smoking affects their kids and the other people around them," said Bruce Adkins, director, West Virginia Division of Tobacco Prevention.

"The best protection of nonsmokers requires a smoke-free environment," said Garland Holley, Clean Indoor Air Program manager. "Separating smokers from nonsmokers and ventilation systems don't eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke," Holley said. The new surgeon general's report also states that there is good evidence that comprehensive smoking bans, like those in New York City for example, don't economically hurt the hospitality industry.

For more information, call the West Virginia Division of Tobacco Prevention at 304-558-2939. For help quitting, call 1-877-YNOTQUIT or 1-877-966-8784. A detailed summary of the Surgeon General's report, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke*, and other related information can be found on CDC's Web site [www.cdc.gov/tobacco](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco).