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Reducing Secondhand Smoke Exposure Among Children and Adolescents: Emerging Issues for Intervening with Medically At-Risk Youth*

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Abstract

Objective To summarize information on rates of secondhand smoke (SHS) exposure among healthy and medically at-risk pediatric populations, discusses the clinical manifestations of pediatric disease that are exacerbated by exposure, and provide an overview of promising strategies for reducing SHS in vulnerable pediatric populations. **Methods** The success of exposure reduction and smoking cessation interventions implemented with parents of healthy children and those with respiratory disease, in the context of their child's health care, is reviewed. **Results** Concurrent implementation of multiple levels of intervention, including clinical interventions within the medical setting, will help to maximize the reduction in childhood SHS exposure. **Conclusion** Ongoing intervention research and identification of strategies to capitalize on

opportunities for providing effective SHS counseling in primary care and specialty clinics will be critical for effective tobacco control among medically at-risk children.

Key words: chronic illness; environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) exposure; pediatrics; secondhand smoke; tobacco control.

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