In Summary

Second hand smoke is a health hazard for all of us. Each year, approximately 3,000 Americans die from cancer caused by second-hand smoke. Studies suggest that second hand smoke may also be a key factor in as many as 62,000 deaths from coronary heart disease annually.¹

This second hand smoke is particularly dangerous for our more vulnerable populations including children, the elderly, and those living with HIV/AIDS, many of whom are at greater risk for both heart disease and certain types of cancer.

While there is little research specific to second hand smoke and people living with HIV/AIDS, there is a significant body of research showing the impact smoking has on people living with HIV/AIDS when it comes to heart disease, cancer, and other common diseases and conditions people living with HIV/AIDS face.

HIV positive individuals are living longer and more productive lives due largely to the introduction of antiretroviral therapies. Supporting smoke-free workplaces is an important step to protect their health and their future.

The Facts: HIV, Smoking, and Cancer

- HIV infection is associated with an increased risk of many types of cancer. As the survival time of HIV/AIDS patients has increased, the risk of several types of cancer has also increased.²

- HIV-associated malignancies, such as anal and cervical cancer are observed more frequently among HIV/AIDS patients who smoke.³,⁴

- Other cancers commonly associated with cigarette smoking, such as lung and head and neck, are observed more frequently among HIV-infected smokers compared with non-infected smokers⁵

¹ American Cancer Society.
The Facts: HIV, Smoking, and Heart Disease.

- HIV/AIDS patients who experience lipodystrophy, a common side effect of antiretroviral treatment, have significantly elevated risk factors for heart disease.\(^6\)
- Cigarette Smoking, an established risk factor for cardiovascular disease, may be particularly harmful to HIV/AIDS patients receiving prolonged antiretroviral treatment.\(^7\)
- One recent study showed an increased risk of heart disease for non-smokers of as much as 60 percent, when regularly exposed to secondhand smoke.\(^8\)

Additional Health Risks

- Oral Diseases including hairy leukoplakia\(^9\) and candidiasis\(^10\) are more common among HIV positive smokers.
- AIDS Dementia Complex is more common among HIV positive smokers.\(^11\)
- Pulmonary Diseases including cryptococcus\(^12\) and bacterial pneumonia\(^13\) are more common among HIV positive smokers.

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