

# Tobacco and Marijuana Secondhand Smoke

## What's the Concern?

### Understanding Tobacco and Marijuana Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

- Tobacco SHS can cause lung cancer, heart disease, serious respiratory illnesses such as bronchitis and asthma, low birth weight, and sudden infant death syndrome.<sup>[1]</sup>
- Despite differences in the chemicals found in tobacco and marijuana secondhand smoke, they share similarities. <sup>[2]</sup>

#### Tobacco SHS

Tobacco SHS contains more than 7,000 chemicals, including 70 that are known to cause cancer.<sup>[1]</sup>

#### Marijuana SHS

Marijuana SHS contains thousands of chemicals including 33 that are known to cause cancer.<sup>[3]</sup>

Tobacco SHS contains chemicals including tar, hydrogen cyanide, cadmium, lead, ammonia, and carbon monoxide.<sup>[1]</sup>

Marijuana SHS contains 2 times as much tar and ammonia and 8 times as much hydrogen cyanide as tobacco smoke.<sup>[3]</sup>

### How is “smoking” defined in California smokefree laws?

California law defines “smoking” as inhaling, exhaling, burning or carrying any lighted or heated tobacco **or plant product** intended for inhalation, whether natural or synthetic, in any manner or in any form. This includes the use of an electronic smoking device. <sup>[4]</sup>

### How does California law restrict marijuana use and possession?

#### California law<sup>[5]</sup> prohibits<sup>[1]</sup>:

- Smoking marijuana in any location where smoking tobacco is prohibited.
- Smoking, vaping or consuming marijuana (includes all parts of the plant) or using marijuana products (this includes concentrates, edibles and topicals) in a public place.
- Smoking marijuana within 1,000 feet of a school, day care center, or youth center when children are present.
- Possessing or using marijuana or marijuana products on the grounds of a school, day care center, or youth center while children are present.
- Smoking or consuming marijuana or possessing an open container of marijuana while driving or riding as a passenger in a motor vehicle, boat, aircraft, or other vehicle used for transportation.
- Smoking, vaping or consuming marijuana in personal vehicles when a minor under 18 years of age is present in the vehicle whether in motion or at rest <sup>[6]</sup>
- Smoking or vaping marijuana on certain residential properties, including rental homes, if a property owner or landlord has prohibited smoking on the property.<sup>[7]</sup>

<sup>[1]</sup> Some exemptions apply. See California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.3 (a) and Business and Professions Code Section 26200 for local authority for the full policy.



## Public Locations Where Smoking Tobacco and Marijuana are Prohibited by California Law

### Indoor Workspaces

**Smoking is prohibited in most enclosed places of employment<sup>[8]</sup> including:**

- Public and private offices and office buildings
- Government buildings, inside and within 20 feet of an entrance, exit, or window
- Restaurants, bars, gaming clubs, bingo halls, and pool halls
- Malls, movie theaters, and gyms
- Hotel and motel lobbies, common areas, employee-only areas, meeting or banquet rooms, and at least 80% of guest rooms within a hotel must be smokefree
- Social organizations such as Elks Lodges or Veteran's Clubs
- Covered parking lots, public transportation systems, state-owned vehicles, taxi cabs, and cabs of motor trucks and tractor trailers if nonsmokers are present
- Owner-operated businesses with no other employees

### Outdoor Spaces

**Smoking is prohibited in many outdoor spaces, including:**

- Certified farmers' markets<sup>[9]</sup>
- Within state parks and state coastal beaches<sup>[10]</sup>
- Within 25 feet of playgrounds, tot lots, or recreational areas specifically designated for use by children<sup>[11]</sup>

### Youth-Sensitive Areas

**Smoking is prohibited in youth-sensitive areas such as:**

- Licensed day care centers, including private residences licensed as family day care homes<sup>[12]</sup>
- K-12 public schools (including charter schools) and school vehicles<sup>[13, 14]</sup>
- Licensed children's residential facilities, foster family homes, or resource family homes<sup>[15]</sup>
- Youth buses<sup>[16]</sup>
- Within 250 feet of youth sporting events<sup>[11]</sup>

California allows local governments the legal authority to pass zoning and licensing ordinances that prevent marijuana retailers and dispensaries from operating in their communities. It also gives local governments the authority to control whether or not they will allow temporary events in their jurisdictions.<sup>[17]</sup>

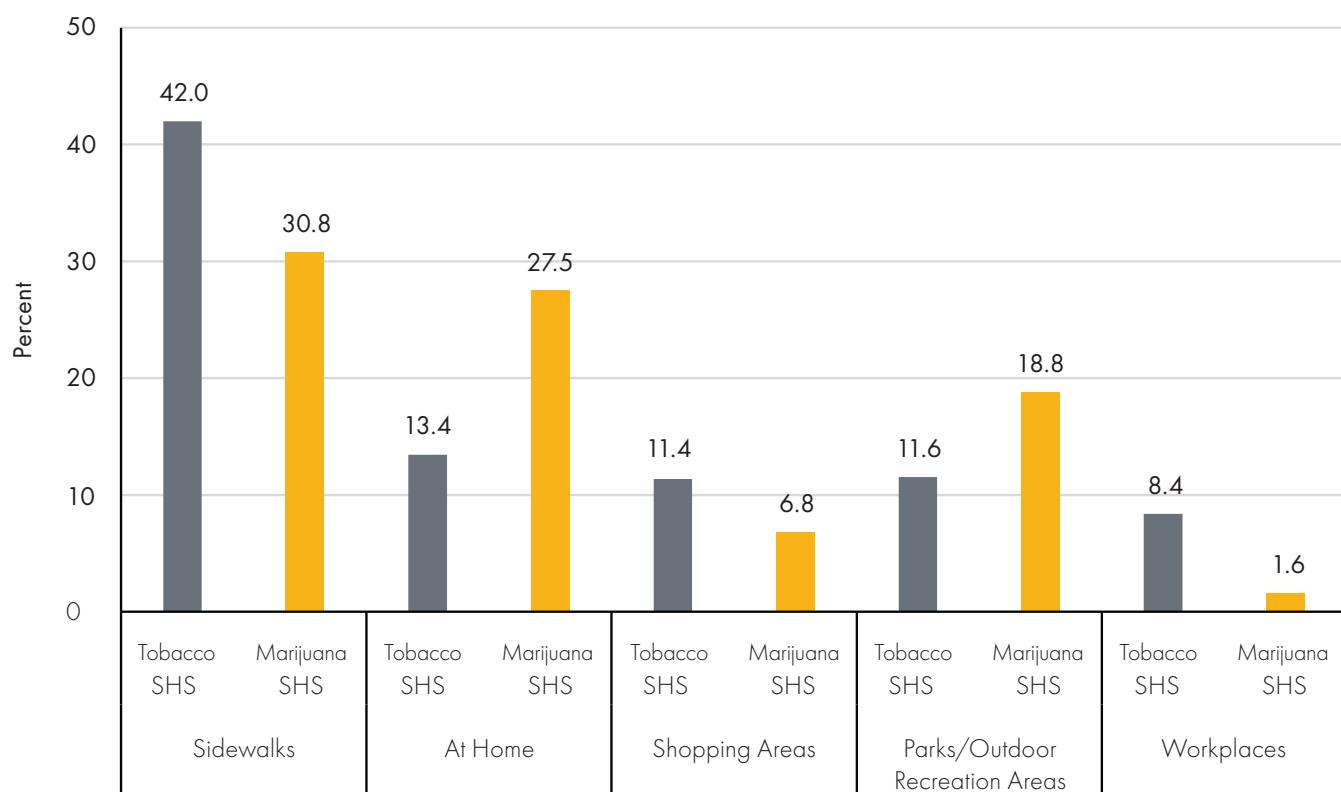
## Tobacco and Marijuana Secondhand Smoke Exposure in California

- 60% of California adults report being exposed to tobacco SHS in the past two weeks.<sup>[18]</sup>
- 50% of California adults report being exposed to marijuana SHS in the past two weeks.<sup>[18]</sup>

## SHS Exposure by Location

The most common location of recent exposure to marijuana SHS is on sidewalks,<sup>[18]</sup> followed by in the home,<sup>[18]</sup> and at parks and outdoor recreation areas<sup>[18]</sup> (Fig. 1). More people report recent exposure to marijuana SHS than tobacco SHS in the home,<sup>[18]</sup> at parks,<sup>[18]</sup> and other outdoor or recreation areas<sup>[18]</sup>.

**Figure 1. Percentage of adults aged 18-64 exposed to tobacco SHS or marijuana SHS by location of most recent exposure (among those individuals who report recent exposure).**



Data: 2019 Online California Adult Tobacco Survey, Wave 1 and 2.

The U.S. Surgeon General continues to warn the public that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Comprehensive smokefree ordinances can protect the public's health and provide everyone the right to breathe smokefree air.

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