California Workplaces Not Protected by the Smokefree Workplace Act

Exemptions to California's Smokefree Workplace Act lead to increased health inequities among low-income people & communities of color.

Hotels



- Smoking OK in up to 20% of hotel rooms; workers exposed to SHS & THS
- Cleaners, desk clerks, waitstaff: disproportionately women & people of color

Long-term health care facilities



- Smoking OK in patient smoking areas, resulting in SHS exposure for nursing assistants
- Most nursing & psychiatric assistants are women of color

Cabs of trucks or tractors



- Smoking OK when nonsmoking employees aren't present
- Exposure to SHS & THS + diesel exhaust increases risk of lung cancer

Workplaces located outdoors



- Smoking OK: SHS exposure outdoors can reach levels attained indoors
- To be completely free from SHS, a person may have to move more than 23 feet away
- Most outdoor workers are from low-income communities or communities of color

Family day cares at private residences



- Smoke may drift inside (from outdoor areas, where smoking is allowed) & circulate via HVAC
- More children & care providers from low-income communities & communities of color compared with day care centers

Tobacco shops & private smokers lounges



- Smoking OK, routinely exposing tobacco shop employees to SHS
- Confusion about rules deters enforcement
- Tobacco shop employees: \$20,151 average annual income, significantly lower than California average of \$59,150

Private residences & home health workers



- Home health aides: 81.5% female, 74.5% from communities of color
- Nearly 73% of fires involving home medical oxygen are caused by tobacco products
- **SHS** = **secondhand smoke** (tobacco smoke that is exhaled by smokers or is given off by burning tobacco and is inhaled by persons nearby)
- **THS** = **thirdhand smoke** (carcinogenic residue from burning tobacco that accumulates on carpets, drapes, & furniture; particles can be inhaled from the air or absorbed through skin)

