

## **Secondhand Smoke Significantly Increases Risk of Breast Cancer**

Women under fifty face 68% increased risk of breast cancer

California, 1/26/2006-- California's Air Resources Board voted today to approve a California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) report concluding that secondhand smoke causes an average 68% increase in breast cancer risk for women younger than 50. Some women who have not reached menopause have as much as a 120% higher risk.

"This is the most careful analysis of the data up to the most current time frame that exists anywhere," says Cheryl Heaton, president of the American Legacy Foundation, a health group in Washington DC. "It has gone substantially further than anything else and is carefully vetted through a group of very well-respected scientists."

A Surgeon General's report on secondhand smoke, which looks at the breast cancer link, is due later this year. The International Agency for Research on Cancer is also studying the issue.

CalEPA's report strengthens existing evidence, accepted in the scientific community, that secondhand smoke causes lung cancer, heart disease, adult asthma, premature birth and sudden infant death syndrome.

California's Air Resources Board has a history of leading the federal government on environmental issues. In the 1960s, before the federal EPA was created, the board was the first agency to set tailpipe emission standards. Later it required automakers to meet the first standards to control smog-forming emissions.

It also made California the first state to phase out leaded gasoline and to require an additive to cut carbon monoxide emissions. In 2004, the board wrote the first rules requiring automakers to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

CalEPA scientists based their conclusion on recent human studies that they determined had more careful assessments of long-term exposure to tobacco smoke. The report also gave more weight to toxicology evidence from animal studies than previous studies by the Surgeon General and others.

It's well-documented that chemicals from cigarettes cause breast cancer in lab animals.

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*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead*