

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 2022

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### **SAFE Glen Cove Coalition- New Research Associating Secondhand Smoke and Childhood Asthma**

According to the American Lung Association (ALA), a new study conducted in Australia has found that smoking around your children not only affects your children, but your grandchildren. Additionally, children are more likely to develop asthma if their father was exposed to secondhand smoke as a child. The risk of non-allergic asthma in children increases by 59% if their fathers were exposed to secondhand smoke in childhood, compared to children whose fathers were not exposed. The risk was even higher, at 72%, if the fathers were exposed to secondhand smoke and went on to smoke themselves.

Nearly 1,700 children who grew up in Tasmania, their fathers and their paternal grandparents were included in the study. The team compared data on whether the children had developed asthma by age 7 with data on whether the fathers grew up with parents who smoked when they were younger than 15. Researchers also included data on whether the fathers became smokers.

Researchers can't be certain of how this damage is passed on through generations, but they think it may have to do with epigenetic changes where factors in our environment, such as tobacco smoke, interact with our genes to modify their expression. These changes can be inherited but may be partially reversible for each generation. It is possible that tobacco smoke is creating epigenetic changes in the cells that will go on to produce sperm when boys grow up. These changes can then be passed on to their children.

Future research will look at whether asthma risk continues into adult life. They will also study whether this secondhand smoke exposure in fathers increases the risk of allergies other lung diseases in their children.

To learn about the dangers of secondhand smoke, or for help Quitting the Nicotine Addiction please visit the American Lung Association on their Website at: [www.americanlung.org](http://www.americanlung.org).

The New York State Smokers' Quitline assists thousands of New Yorkers every year in their attempts to break free from smoking and other tobacco and the service is free and confidential. Call 1-866-NYQUITS (1-866-697-8487) or visit them at: <https://www.nysmokefree.com/>.for Quit Help.

SAFE, Inc. is the only alcohol and substance abuse prevention, intervention, and education agency in the City of Glen Cove. Its Coalition is concerned about tobacco use and vaping seeking to educate and update the community regarding its negative consequences in collaboration with Carol Meschkow, Manager- Tobacco Action Coalition of Long Island. To learn more about the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition please follow us on [ww.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition](https://www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition) or visit the Vaping Facts and Myths Page of SAFE's website to learn more about how vaping is detrimental to your health [www.safeglencove.org](http://www.safeglencove.org).