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The Effects of Second-Hand Smoke on Children

- nearly doubles the number of asthma attacks
- increases the number of emergency room visits for asthma by 63%
- increases asthma symptoms by 47%
- reduces lung function by up to 13%
- increases the risk that children with eczema will become asthmatic by up to 51%
- nearly doubles the risk of ear infections and chronic middle ear fluid
- increases the number of respiratory infections by up to 35%
- doubles the risk of missing over 5 days of school
- increases IgE (allergy antibody) levels and the number of eosinophils (allergy cells) in the blood
- smoking during pregnancy stunts growth of developing lungs, resulting in impaired lung function in childhood
- increases risk the child will become a smoker
- is the equivalent of the child smoking up to 80 cigarettes per year
- surprisingly, smoking outdoors doesn't help: 2/3 children of outdoor-only smokers have elevated nicotine levels in their hair, indicating significant long-term exposure