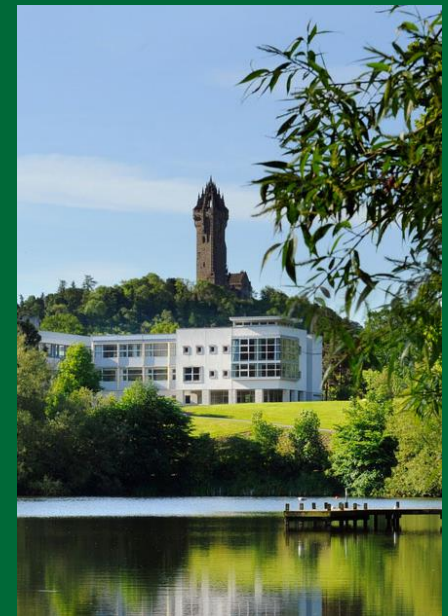


Protecting those who care for us: domiciliary workers' exposure to second-hand smoke

Dr Sean Semple

Smoke-free Homes Network Meeting
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BE THE DIFFERENCE



Original investigation

Home Health and Community Care Workers' Occupational Exposure to Secondhand Smoke: A Rapid Literature Review

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Abstract

Introduction: Although many workers are protected from exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke (SHS), home health and community care workers enter domestic settings where SHS is commonly present. Little is known about the extent of SHS exposure among this occupational group.

Methods: A rapid review to examine the literature on home health and community care workers' exposure to SHS at work and identify research gaps. Systematic searches combining terms for SHS exposure (eg, "tobacco smoke pollution") with terms for home health and care workers, patients and settings (eg, "home health nursing") were run in CINAHL and Medline (with no date or language limitations). Web site and backward-forward citation searches identified further papers for narrative review.

The last major occupational group exposed to SHS

- ❑ Home health care workers (HHCW), domiciliary workers – those entering homes to deliver care: potentially exposed to SHS in patients' homes
- ❑ Sizeable workforce (70,000 in Scotland) and predicted to grow
- ❑ Guidance on SHS is inadequate and out of date
- ❑ No real data on the scale of the problem nor any measurements of the exposure to SHS experienced
- ❑ Many workers feel that providing care to patients means that their health concerns come second
- ❑ Need for research...

Research proposal

- ❑ Submitted to Scotland's Chief Scientist Office (CSO) in December
- ❑ Aims to review existing data and policies in Scotland and globally
- ❑ Measure exposure and survey workers
- ❑ Gather qualitative data from workers, management and patients
- ❑ Develop new guidance and policies through a series of stakeholder workshops
- ❑ 30 months of work – if funded would start in August 2019
- ❑ Please get in touch if you'd be interested in being involved