

## ***An Occupational Health Hazard: ETS among Child Welfare Workers***

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NORA Healthcare and Social Assistance Sector Council's third strategic goal is to "Reduce or eliminate exposure and adverse health effects caused by hazardous drugs and other chemicals" (2009, p.13). Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS), also known as secondhand smoke, consists of smoke emanating from the burnt ends of a cigarette and smoke exhaled by the active smoker (CDC, 2011). ETS has been linked to such health issues as cancer, heart disease, and fertility issues. Child welfare workers, categorized under subsector Social Assistance for NORA, are exposed to ETS as they visit clients in the home and there are no ETS regulations in private homes. ETS is one of the most common occupational health hazards child welfare workers face, yet, no studies have been conducted regarding ETS exposure among this population. The specific aims of this project are to 1. Define exposure to ETS among child welfare workers. 2. Measure child welfare workers' attitudes, knowledge, and willingness to provide counseling and education on ETS and tobacco use. 3. Characterize self-reported ETS policies for home and automobile, smoking behavior and current tobacco consumption among child welfare workers. This study will utilize two designs. One, a cross-sectional survey of 300 child welfare workers and an observational cohort design using 180 non-smoking child welfare workers. All participants are employed at Ohio Department of Job and Family Services in Hamilton County, Ohio. This data will serve as rationale in a future grant application, which will aim to develop an educational and behavioral intervention for staff in child welfare to 1) reduce exposure to ETS and 2) provide support and education for staff to effectively deliver tobacco cessation services.

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**University of Cincinnati  
14th Annual  
Pilot Research Project  
Symposium  
October 10-11, 2013**

**Main Menu**

Hosted by: The University of Cincinnati Education and Research Center  
Supported by: The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.  
(NIOSH) Grant #: T42/OH008432-08

- ◆ **Pilot Research Project Overview**
- ◆ **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
- ◆ **Keynote Speakers**
- ◆ **Podium Presentations**
- ◆ **Poster Presentations**
- ◆ **Video Montage of the 14th Annual PRP Symposium**
- ◆ **Participating Universities**
- ◆ **Steering Committee Members**
- ◆ **Acknowledgements**
- ◆ **Problems Viewing the Videos**
  
- ◆ **PRP Website**

Produced by Kurt Roberts Department of Environmental Health  
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