

Comparisons and contrasts: perceptions of the risk of exposing children to second hand smoke in the UK and in China

Tobacco smoking represents a serious risk to health, and the WHO has identified second hand smoke as a major risk to child health across the world. Although there is now a substantial body of research exploring the factors that can promote children's exposure to second hand smoke in the UK and other Western cultures, there is little comparable data from China. Drawing on existing literature and depth qualitative studies from the UK and comparable research in China, this paper will explore similarities and differences in the beliefs and viewpoints concerning the risks of children's exposure to second hand smoke among parents living in China and the UK. This cross-cultural identification of factors within and between these two cultural contexts will provide an enhanced knowledge not only of the cultural perception of the risks and harms associated with smoking and tobacco, but also provide a deeper understanding as to how cultural perceptions of risk relate to indoor smoking behaviors, positions of relative power and gendered relationships, and ultimately to the future health of children.

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