

Confidential

Final
SAB

(F)
Rylander

WORKSHOP PERSPECTIVES

The previous workshop on environmental tobacco smoke (Rylander 1974) concluded that the main acute effect of exposure to ETS is irritation of the eyes and the respiratory passage. The extent of this non-specific reaction in the general population and the levels at which it occurs are not known. The effects may occur at very low concentrations among atopic persons or persons who otherwise have a reactive respiratory tract. Frequently, such persons also react to low concentrations of other irritating agents in the environment, such as dusts and vapors.

It was recommended that the proportion of such reactive persons in the population be determined as well as the levels at which these reactions occur. Research was also suggested to determine whether the reaction is allergic in nature or represents a non-specific response occurring at low concentrations of exposure.

According to some researchers, effects other than acute irritation may occur in certain population groups. The data presented, though suggestive of other effects, were not considered conclusive and more information was deemed necessary.

It was recommended that these possible effects be studied by epidemiological methods using special population

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