

# Indoor air pollution in South East Santiago Contaminación aérea intradomiciliaria en el área sur-oriente de Santiago

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Background: Indoor air pollution could play an important role in the susceptibility to respiratory diseases of vulnerable individuals, such as elders and infants. Aim: To evaluate indoor air pollution in a low income population of South East Santiago. Subjects and methods: A domiciliary survey of contaminant sources was carried out in the houses of a cohort of 522 children less than one year old. Using a case-control design, 121 children consulting for respiratory diseases were considered as cases and 131 healthy infants of the same age and sex were considered as controls. In the houses of both groups, active monitors for particulate matter (PM10) and passive monitors for NO<sub>2</sub> were installed. Results: Forty two percent of fathers and 30% of mothers were smokers, and in two thirds of the families there was at least one smoker. Eighty five percent used portable heaters in winter. Of these, 77% used kerosene as fuel. Only 27% had water beating appliances. The rest heated water on the kitch