

I. NICOTINE HAS DRUG EFFECTS ON THE BODY

Nicotine is a psychoactive drug that affects the brain, the skeletal muscles, the cardiovascular system, and other systems throughout the body.¹⁵ Psychoactive is defined as having the ability to alter mood, anxiety, behavior, cognitive processes, or mental tension.¹⁶ There is widespread agreement within the scientific community that nicotine causes substantial pharmacological effects, including those that lead to addiction in the majority of users. This section will briefly review: 1) the physiological and central nervous system effects of nicotine; 2) the data that support the conclusion that nicotine is an addictive agent; 3) the evidence that the amount of nicotine in commercially available products is sufficient to cause addiction; and 4) the evidence that consumers use tobacco products for their drug effects.

¹⁵ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Smoking: Nicotine Addiction. Report of the U.S. Surgeon General, 1988.* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control, Center for Health Promotion and Education, Office on Smoking and Health. DHHS Publication No. (CDC) 88-8406, 1988. Pages 13-14, 79-124, 410, 596-601. (Hereafter cited as Surgeon General's Report. 1988. *Nicotine Addiction.*)

¹⁶ Hensyl WR, ed. *Stedman's Medical Dictionary.* 25th ed. Baltimore, MD: Williams and Wilkins; 1990:1284.