



TOLL OF TOBACCO IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Tobacco Use in the USA

- High school students who are current (past month) smokers: 23.0% or 3.5+ million [Boys: 22.9% Girls: 23.0%]
- High school males who currently use smokeless tobacco: 13.6% [Girls: 2.2%]
- Kids (under 18) who try smoking for the first time each day: 4,000
- Kids (under 18) who become new regular, daily smokers each day: 1,000+
- Kids exposed to secondhand smoke at home: 15.5 million
- Workplaces that have smoke-free policies: 68.6%
- Packs of cigarettes consumed by kids each year: 800 million (roughly \$2.0 billion per year in sales revenue)
- Adults in the USA who smoke: 20.8% or about 45 million [Men: 23.9% Women: 18.0%]

Deaths & Disease in the USA from Tobacco Use

- People who die each year from their own cigarette smoking: 400,000
- People who die each year from others' smoking (secondhand smoke & pregnancy smoking): 38,000 to 67,500
- Kids under 18 alive today who will ultimately die from smoking (unless smoking rates decline): 6,000,000+
- People in the USA who currently suffer from smoking-caused illness: 8.6 million

Smoking kills more people than alcohol, AIDS, car accidents, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides combined, with thousands more dying from spit tobacco use. Of the roughly 416,000 kids who become new regular, daily smokers each year, almost a third will ultimately die from it. In addition, smokers lose an average of 13 to 14 years of life because of their smoking.

Tobacco-Related Monetary Costs in the USA

Total annual public and private *health care* expenditures caused by smoking: \$96.7 billion

- Annual Federal and state government smoking-caused Medicaid payments: \$30.9 billion
[Federal share: \$17.6 billion per year. States share: \$13.3 billion]

- Federal government smoking-caused Medicare expenditures each year: \$27.4 billion

- Other federal government tobacco-caused healthcare costs (e.g. through VA health care): \$9.6 billion

- Annual health care expenditures solely from secondhand smoke exposure: \$4.98 billion

Additional smoking-caused health costs caused by tobacco use include annual expenditures for health and developmental problems of infants and children caused by mothers smoking or being exposed to second-hand smoke during pregnancy or by kids being exposed to parents smoking after birth (at least \$1.4 to \$4.0 billion). Also not included above are costs from smokeless or spit tobacco use, adult secondhand smoke exposure, or pipe/cigar smoking.

Productivity losses caused by smoking each year: \$97.6 billion

[Only includes costs from productive work lives shortened by smoking-caused death. Not included: costs from smoking-caused disability during work lives, smoking-caused sick days, or smoking-caused productivity declines when on the job.]

Annual expenditures through Social Security Survivors Insurance for the more than 300,000 kids who have lost at least one parent from a smoking-caused death: \$2.6 billion

Other non-healthcare costs from tobacco use include residential and commercial property losses from smoking-caused fires (about \$400 million per year) and tobacco-related cleaning & maintenance (\$4 billion, commercial only).

- Taxpayers yearly fed/state tax burden from smoking-caused gov't spending: \$70.7 billion (\$630 per household)
- Smoking-caused health costs and productivity losses per pack sold in USA (low estimate): \$10.28 per pack

Tobacco Industry Advertising & Political Influence

- Annual tobacco industry spending on marketing its products nationwide: \$13.4 billion (\$36+ million each day)

Research studies have found that kids are three times as sensitive to tobacco advertising than adults and are more likely to be influenced to smoke by cigarette marketing than by peer pressure; and that a third of underage experimentation with smoking is attributable to tobacco company advertising and promotion.

- Annual tobacco industry contributions to federal candidates, political parties, and PACS: Over \$3 million
- Annual tobacco industry expenditures lobbying Congress: Over \$20 million

Tobacco companies also spend enormous amounts to influence state and local politics; and, when threatened by the federal McCain tobacco control bill in 1998, spent more than \$125 million in direct and grassroots lobbying to defeat it. Since 1998, Altria (Philip Morris) has spent more on lobbying Congress than any other business.

Sources of Information for Tobacco's Toll in the USA

Youth tobacco use. 2005 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). The 2004 National Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS), with a different methodology than the YRBS, found that 21.7% of U.S. high school kids smoke and 9.9% of high school males use spit tobacco, but the results from the YRBS and YTS cannot be compared because they use different methodologies. Current smoker defined as having smoked in the past month. YRBS is done in odd-numbered years, YTS in even. See, also, Inst. for Social Research, Univ. of Mich., *Monitoring the Future Studies*, <http://monitoringthefuture.org/new.html>.

Youth initiation. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services (HHS), "Results from the 2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health," 2006. <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov>

Secondhand smoke exposure. CDC, "State-Specific Prevalence of Cigarette Smoking Among Adults, and Children's and Adolescents' Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke – United States 1996," *MMWR* 46(44): 1038-1043, November 7, 1997. Good data not currently available re adult exposure to secondhand smoke at home or the numbers of adults or kids exposed to SHS outside the home.

Smoke-free workplaces. Shopland, D., et al., "State-Specific Trends in Smoke-Free Workplace Policy Coverage: The Current Population Survey Tobacco Use Supplement, 1993 to 1999," *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine* 43(8): 680-86, August 2001.

Packs consumed by kids. J. DiFranza & J. Librett, "State and Federal Revenues from Tobacco Consumed by Minors," *American Journal of Public Health* 89(7): 1106-1108, July 1999; Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Tobacco Briefing Room, Table 8,

<http://www.econ.ag.gov/Briefing/tobacco/>. See, also, Cummings, et al., "The Illegal Sale of Cigarettes to US Minors: Estimates by State," *American Journal of Public Health* 84(2): 300-302, February 1994.

Adult smoking. National Center for Health Statistics, 2006 Nat'l Health Interview Survey.

Smoking deaths. CDC, "Annual Smoking-Attributable Mortality, Years of Potential Life Lost, and Economic Costs -- United States 1997-2001," *MMWR*, July 1, 2005. Nat'l Cancer Inst, *Health Effects of Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke: The Report of the California Environmental Protection Agency, Smoking & Tob. Control Monograph* no. 10, 1999, <http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/tcrb/monographs/10> [CA report at

http://www.oehha.org/air/environmental_tobacco/]. See, also, California EPA, *Proposed Identification of Environmental Tobacco Smoke as a Toxic Air Contaminant*, June 24, 2005, <http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/ets/finalreport/finalreport.htm>.

Smoking-caused disease. "Cigarette Smoking-Attributable Morbidity – United States, 2000" *MMWR* 52(35): 842-844, September 5, 2003. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5235.pdf>. See, also, U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO), "CDC's April 2002 Report on Smoking: Estimates of Selected Health Consequences of Cigarette Smoking Were Reasonable," letter to U.S. Rep. Richard Burr, July 16, 2003, <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d03942r.pdf>.

Smoking-caused costs: CDC, *Sustaining State Programs for Tobacco Control: Data Highlights 2006* [and underlying CDC data and estimates],

http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/state_data/data_highlights/2006/index.htm. CDC, "Annual Smoking-Attributable Mortality, Years of Potential Life Lost, and Economic Costs -- United States 1997-2001," *MMWR*, July 1, 2005. See also Zhang, X., et al., "Cost of Smoking to the Medicare Program, 1993," *Health Care Financing Review* 20(4): 1-19, Summer 1999 [nationwide smoking-caused health costs = \$89 billion in 1997 or \$108 billion in 2002 dollars].

Health Care Financing Administration [federal gov't reimburses the states, on average, for 57% of their Medicaid expenditures]. Office of Management and Budget, *The Budget for the United States Government - Fiscal Year 2000*, Table S-8 at page 378, January 1999. CDC's *Data Highlights 2006* provides cost estimates that have been adjusted for inflation and put in 2004 dollars. To make the other cost data similarly current and more comparable, they have also been adjusted for inflation and put in 2004 dollars, using the same CDC methodology.

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Related Campaign Fact Sheets, available at <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org> or <http://tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets>.