



THE TOLL OF CIGARETTE SMOKING

Cigarette Tax Briefing Paper March 2010

Smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. It kills more people each year than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides combined. **6,100 South Carolina adults die each year from their own smoking. 700 adult non-smokers in South Carolina die each year from exposure to secondhand smoke.** For every person in South Carolina who dies from smoking approximately 20 more state residents are suffering from serious smoking-caused disease and disability, or other smoking-caused health problems.

Smoking-Caused Cancer

Thirty percent of all cancers are due to smoking. Smoking is a known cause of cancer of the lung, larynx, oral cavity, and esophagus. Smoking is also a contributing cause in the development of cancers of the bladder, pancreas, uterus, cervix, kidney and stomach.

Smoking is responsible for **87% of lung cancer cases** (90% in men, 82% in women).

28% of deaths attributable to smoking involve lung cancer. Over 100,000 men and women die of smoking caused lung cancer each year.

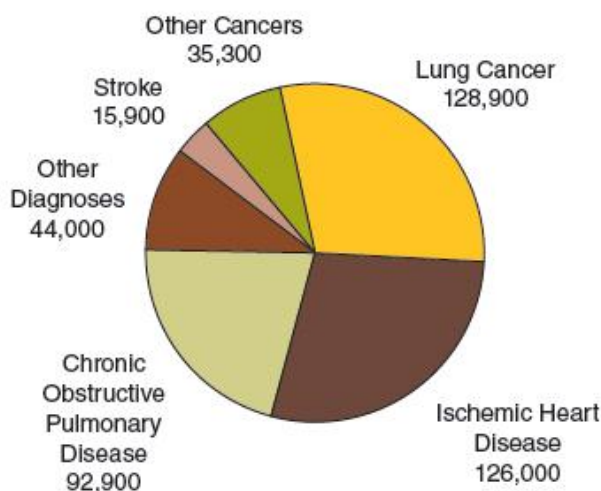
Smoking-Caused Lung Diseases

26% of smoking-attributable deaths, or approximately **92,000 smoking deaths per year, involve respiratory diseases.**

Smoking is a known cause of most cases of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) which includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis.

Smoking is accountable for 81% of all COPD deaths. Smokers increase their risk of death from bronchitis and emphysema by nearly 10 times.

About 443,000 U.S. Deaths Attributable Each Year to Cigarette Smoking*



* Average annual number of deaths, 2000–2004.
Source: *MMWR* 2008;57(45):1226–1228.

Smoking-Caused Heart Disease and Heart Attacks

Smoking is a major cause of cardiovascular disease (CVD), the nation's #1 killer. **More men and women in the United States have died from cardiovascular disease attributed to smoking than cancer.**

35% of all smoking-related deaths in the US are from CVD. **Smokers are 2-4 times more likely to develop coronary heart disease than nonsmokers and 2-3 times more likely to die from it.**

Not just smokers are at risk. An estimated **46,000 nonsmokers die each year** from coronary heart disease due to exposure to secondhand smoke.



INCREASING SOUTH CAROLINA'S CIGARETTE TAX BY 93 CENTS IS A:

- **WIN** for public health because it will reduce smoking, particularly among kids;
- **WIN** for the state's fiscal health because it will raise more than \$199.8 million in new revenue for the state; and
- **WIN** for lawmakers who support it because of overwhelming voter support.

WIN For Kids

- 43,400 youth will never start to smoke
- 23,900 adult smokers will be prompted to quit
- More than 20,100 lives will be saved from a premature smoking-caused death

WIN For State Revenues

- More than \$199.8 Million in new cigarette tax revenue
- \$986.6 Million in long term health care savings

WIN For Lawmakers

A 93-cent increase is supported by 74% of South Carolina voters

The bottom line:

South Carolinians support raising the cigarette tax **if the revenue goes to health care programs**. When compared with other options – offsetting other taxes or cutting important programs – raising the cigarette tax is seen as an attractive solution to funding critical health programs for South Carolina families. Support for increasing the cigarette tax is broad-based, and cuts across party, regional, gender, and racial lines.

Note: Data and revenue projections provided by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids are current as of February 9, 2010.

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