



TOLL OF TOBACCO IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Tobacco Use in the USA

- High school students who are current (past month) smokers: 1.9% [Boys: 2.3% Girls: 1.5%]; 290,000
- High school students who are current e-cigarette users: 10.0%
- High school males who are current cigar smokers: 2.3%
- High school students who are current tobacco users: 12.6%
- High school and middle school students who are current tobacco users: 2,800,000
- Kids (under 18) who try smoking for the first time each day: 1,400+
- Kids (under 18) who try e-cigarettes for the first time each day: 4,300+
- Kids (3-11) exposed to secondhand smoke: 38.1% [Black: 66.2% White: 38.1%]
- Adults in the USA who are current smokers: 11.5% [Men: 13.1% Women: 10.1%]; 28.3 million

Deaths & Disease in the USA from Tobacco Use

- People who die each year from cigarette smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke: approx. 480,000+
- People in the USA who currently suffer from smoking-caused illness: 16 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 all the kids who become new smokers each year, almost a third will ultimately die from it. In addition, smokers lose a decade of life because of their smoking. For every person who dies from smoking, at least 30 more are suffering from serious smoking-caused disease and disability.

Tobacco-Related Monetary Costs in the USA

- Total annual public and private *health care* expenditures caused by smoking: \$241.4 billion
 - Annual Federal and state government smoking-caused Medicaid payments: \$72.7 billion [Federal share: \$42.0 billion per year. States' share: \$30.7 billion]
 - Federal government smoking-caused Medicare expenditures each year: \$61.1 billion
 - Other federal government tobacco-caused health care costs (e.g., through VA health care): \$21.8 billion
- Annual health care expenditures solely from secondhand smoke exposure: \$6.5 billion

Not included above are costs from other tobacco use or spending due to dental care or infant and maternal services.

- Productivity losses from smoking-caused premature death each year: \$179.9 billion
- Productivity losses from smoking-caused illness each year: \$184.9 billion

[Productivity losses are from smoking-caused shortened work lives and illness that may impact the ability to work, including absenteeism, non-productivity at work, and inability to work due to disability.]

Not included in the above costs are other non-health care costs from tobacco use, including residential and commercial property losses from smoking-caused fires, tobacco-related cleaning & maintenance, and expenditures through Social Security Survivors Insurance for kids who have lost at least one parent from a smoking-caused death.

- Taxpayers yearly fed/state tax burden from smoking-caused gov't spending: \$1,234 per household
- Smoking-caused health costs and productivity losses per pack sold in USA (low estimate): \$51.52
- Weighted average retail price per pack in the USA (including sales tax): \$8.97

Tobacco Industry Advertising & Political Influence

- Annual cigarette and smokeless tobacco industry spending on marketing its products nationwide: \$8.6 billion (\$23.5 million each day)
- Annual e-cigarette company spending on marketing its products nationwide: \$719.9 million

Spending includes the top cigarette, smokeless, and e-cigarette companies. Research has concluded that tobacco industry marketing causes youth to start and continue using tobacco products, and has found that youth are more sensitive to the marketing than adults.

- Tobacco company PAC and Soft Money contributions to federal candidates/parties/outside spending groups, 2024 election cycle to date: \$1.3 million
- Tobacco industry expenditures lobbying Congress so far in 2023-2024: \$21.3 million

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, January 17, 2024

Sources of Information for Tobacco's Toll in the USA

Youth cigarette use. 2023 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS). The 2022 NYTS found that 2.0% of high school students smoked. Current smoker defined as having smoked in the past month. The 2021 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, using a different methodology than the NYTS, found that 3.8% of U.S. high school kids smoke. See, also, Inst. for Social Research, Univ. of Mich., *Monitoring the Future Studies*, <http://monitoringthefuture.org/new.html>. **Youth cigar use.** 2023 NYTS. The 2022 NYTS found that 3.5% of high school males used cigars. **Youth E-Cigarette Use.** 2023 NYTS. The 2022 NYTS found that 14.1% of high school students used e-cigarettes. **Youth Tobacco Use.** 2023 NYTS. The 2022 NYTS found that 16.5% of high school students were tobacco users. Any tobacco product use includes past-month use of e-cigarettes, cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco, hookahs, pipe tobacco, bidis, or heated tobacco products. **Youth initiation.** Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), HHS, *Results from the 2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, NSDUH: Detailed Tables*, Table 4.10A, <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2022-nsduh-detailed-tables>. **Secondhand smoke exposure.** Brody DJ, Lu Z, Tsai J, "Secondhand smoke exposure among nonsmoking youth: United States, 2013-2016," *NCHS Data Brief*, 348, 2019. **Adult smoking.** 2021 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). CDC, "Tobacco Product Use Among Adults—United States, 2021," *MMWR* 72:475-483, May 5, 2023, <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/pdfs/mm7218a1-H.pdf>, <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db348-h.pdf>. **Adult smoking.** 2021 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). CDC, "Tobacco Product Use Among Adults—United States, 2021," *MMWR* 72:475-483, May 5, 2023, <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/pdfs/mm7218a1-H.pdf>.

Smoking deaths and disease. HHS, *The Health Consequences of Smoking – 50 Years of Progress A Report of the Surgeon General*, 2014, <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/sgr/50th-anniversary/index.htm>; Smoking-related disease and disability from CDC, *Smoking & Tobacco Use*, http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/fast_facts/index.htm#oll.

Smoking-caused costs. (NOTE: To make all of the cost data more comparable, some figures have been adjusted to 2018 dollars by the CDC's methodology of using the Bureau of Economic Analysis' price indexes for Gross Domestic Products). Shrestha, SS, et al., "Cost of Cigarette Smoking—Attributable Productivity Losses, U.S., 2018," *AJPM*, July 27, 2022. Xu, X, et al., "U.S. healthcare spending attributable to cigarette smoking in 2014," *Preventive Medicine* 150:106529, 2021. HHS, *The Health Consequences of Smoking – 50 Years of Progress A Report of the Surgeon General*, 2014. Federal gov't reimburses the states, on average (weighted), for 57.8% of their Medicaid expenditures (<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-11-21/pdf/2023-25636.pdf>). **SHS Costs.** Behan, DF, et al., *Economic Effects of Environmental Tobacco Smoke*, Society of Actuaries, March 31, 2005, <https://www.soa.org/493831/globalassets/assets/files/research/projects/etsreportfinaldraftfinal-3.pdf>. **Productivity costs.** Shrestha, SS, et al., "Cost of Cigarette Smoking—Attributable Productivity Losses, U.S., 2018," *AJPM*, July 27, 2022. HHS, *The Health Consequences of Smoking – 50 Years of Progress A Report of the Surgeon General*, 2014. **Tobacco tax burden.** Smoking-caused federal/state tax burden equals listed government expenditures plus 3% of total tobacco-caused health costs to account for unlisted federal/state smoking costs. Xu, X, et al., "U.S. healthcare spending attributable to cigarette smoking in 2014," *Preventive Medicine*, 2021. State tax burden is based on data from CDC, *Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs*, 2014; CDC, *State Data Highlights*, 2006; CDC, "Medical Care Expenditures Attributable to Smoking—United States, 1993," *MMWR* 43(26):1-4, July 8, 1994. U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey is used for household data. Per pack health and productivity costs calculated using 2018 national pack sales from U.S. Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau. **Average retail price per pack.** Orzechowski & Walker, *The Tax Burden on Tobacco*, 2022, and adjustments for industry price promotions, price increases, cigarette tax increases, and inflation.

Examples of non-health care costs from tobacco use. U.S. Dept. of the Treasury, *Economic Costs of Smoking in the U.S. and the Benefits of Comprehensive Tobacco Legislation*, 1998; Chaloupka, FJ & Warner, KE, "The Economics of Smoking," in Culyer, A & Newhouse, J, (eds), *The Handbook of Health Economics*, 2000. **Fire costs.** Nat'l Fire Protection Association, *Home Fires Started by Smoking*, January 2019, <https://www.nfpa.org/News-and-Research/Data-research-and-tools/US-Fire-Problem/Smoking-Materials>; U.S. Fire Administration, *Residential Building Smoking Fire Trends (2012-2021)*, <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/statistics/residential-fires/smoking.html>. **Cleaning and maintenance costs.** Mudarri, D, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Costs and Benefits of Smoking Restrictions: An Assessment of the Smoke-Free Environment Act of 1993 (H.R. 3434)*, submitted to Subcommittee on Health and the Environment; Energy and Commerce Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, April 1994. CDC, *Making Your Workplace Smokefree: A Decision Maker's Guide*, 1996. **Smoking & SSSI costs:** Leistikow, B, et al., "Estimates of Smoking-Attributable Deaths at Ages 15-54, Motherless or Fatherless Youths, and Resulting Social Security Costs in the United States in 1994," *Preventive Medicine* 30(5):353-360, May 2000.

Tobacco industry marketing spending. U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC), *Cigarette Report for 2022*, October 2023, https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/ftc_gov/pdf/2022-Cigarette-Report.pdf [data for top 4 manufacturers only]; FTC, *Smokeless Tobacco Report for 2022*, October 2023, https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/ftc_gov/pdf/2022-Smokeless-Tobacco-Report.pdf [data for top 5 manufacturers only]; FTC, *E-Cigarette Report for 2019-2020*, August 31, 2022, https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/ftc_gov/pdf/E-Cigarette%20Report%202019-20%20final.pdf [data for top 5 manufacturers only]. **Tobacco marketing research.** HHS, *Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General*, 2012, <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/sgr/2012/index.htm>. National Cancer Institute (NCI), *The Role of the Media in Promoting and Reducing Tobacco Use, Smoking and Tobacco Control Monograph No. 19*, 2008, http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/tcrb/monographs/19/m19_complete.pdf. See also, Campaign factsheet, *Tobacco Marketing to Kids*, <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0008.pdf>.

Tobacco industry political contributions, lobbying. Federal Election Commission. Center for Responsive Politics, <http://www.opensecrets.org>. Data released October 18, 2023.

Related Campaign Factsheets available at <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org> or <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/fact-sheets>.