



TOLL OF TOBACCO IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Tobacco Use in the USA

- High school students who are current (past month) smokers: 7.6% [Boys: 7.6% Girls: 7.5%]; over 1.1 million
- High school males who are current cigar smokers: 9.0%
- High school students who are current e-cigarette users: 20.8%
- Kids (under 18) who try smoking for the first time each day: 2,000
- Kids (under 18) who become new regular, daily smokers each day: 300+
- Kids (3-11) exposed to secondhand smoke: 40.6% [Black: 67.9% White: 37.2%]
- Adults in the USA who are current smokers: 14.0% [Men: 15.8% Women: 12.2%]; 34.3 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+
- Kids under 18 alive today who will ultimately die from smoking (unless smoking rates decline): 5.6 million
- 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: approx. \$170 billion
 - Annual Federal and state government smoking-caused Medicaid payments: \$39.6 billion [Federal share: \$22.6 billion per year. States' share: \$17.0 billion]
 - Federal government smoking-caused Medicare expenditures each year: \$45.0 billion
 - Other federal government tobacco-caused health care costs (e.g. through VA health care): \$23.8 billion
- Annual health care expenditures solely from secondhand smoke exposure: \$6.03 billion

Not included above are costs from smokeless or spit tobacco use or pipe/cigar smoking.

- Productivity losses caused by smoking each year: \$151 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.]

Other non-health care costs from tobacco use include 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: \$936 per household
- Smoking-caused health costs and productivity losses per pack sold in USA (low estimate): \$19.16 per pack
- Average retail price per pack in the USA (including sales tax): \$6.36

Tobacco Industry Advertising & Political Influence

- Annual tobacco industry spending on marketing its products nationwide: \$9.5 billion (\$26 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.

- Tobacco company PAC contributions to federal candidates, 2018 election cycle: more than \$600,000
- Tobacco industry expenditures lobbying Congress in 2017: \$22.1 million

Sources of Information for Tobacco's Toll in the USA. Youth cigarette and cigar use. 2017 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS). The 2016 NYTS found that 8.0% of high school students smoked and 9.9% of high school males used cigars. Current smoker defined as having smoked in the past month. The 2017 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, using a different methodology than the NYTS, found that 8.8% 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 E-Cigarette Use.** 2018 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS). The 2017 NYTS found that 11.7% of high school students used e-cigarettes. **Youth initiation.** Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), HHS, *Results from the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, NSDUH: Detailed Tables* <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/cbhsq-reports/NSDUHDetailedTabs2017/NSDUHDetailedTabs2017.pdf>. **Secondhand smoke exposure.** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "Vital Signs: Disparities in Nonsmokers' Exposure to Secondhand Smoke – United States, 1999-2012," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, February 3, 2015. **Adult smoking.** CDC, "Tobacco Product Use Among Adults—United States, 2017," *MMWR* 67(44): 1225-1232, November 9, 2018, <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/pdfs/mm6744a2-H.pdf>.

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Smoking-caused costs. Xu, X et al., "Annual Healthcare Spending Attributable to Cigarette Smoking: An Update," *Am J Prev Med*, 2014. 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, for 56.8% of their Medicaid expenditures. National health care costs are in 2010 dollars. **SHS Costs.** Health care costs updated to 2009 dollars, based on data in Behan, DF, et al., *Economic Effects of Environmental Tobacco Smoke*, Society of Actuaries, March 31, 2005, <https://www.soa.org/Research/Research-Projects/Life-Insurance/research-economic-effect.aspx>. **Productivity costs.** HHS, *The Health Consequences of Smoking – 50 Years of Progress A Report of the Surgeon General*, 2014. Productivity losses in 2009 dollars. **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, and are in 2010 dollars. Xu, X et al., "Annual Healthcare Spending Attributable to Cigarette Smoking: An Update," *Am J Prev Med*, 2014. State tax burden is based on data from CDC, Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs, 2014; CDC, 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 2010 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*, 2016, and adjustments for industry price promotions, price increases, cigarette tax increases, and inflation.

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All CDC *MMWR*'s at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr>. Abstracts of many of the cited articles at *PubMed*, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez>. **Related Campaign Factsheets**, available at <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org> or <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/fact-sheets/>.