



TOLL OF TOBACCO IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Tobacco Use in the USA

- High school students who are current (past month) smokers: 4.6% [Boys: 5.4% Girls: 3.9%]; over 700,000
- High school males who are current cigar smokers: 5.4%
- High school students who are current e-cigarette users: 11.3%
- High school students who are current tobacco users: 23.6%
- Kids (under 18) who try smoking for the first time each day: 1,600+
- Kids (under 18) who become new regular, daily smokers each day: 235+
- Kids (3-11) exposed to secondhand smoke: 38.1% [Black: 66.2% White: 38.1%]
- Adults in the USA who are current smokers: 14.0% [Men: 15.3% Women: 12.7%]; 34.1 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: \$226.7 billion
 - Annual Federal and state government smoking-caused Medicaid payments: \$68.3 billion [Federal share: \$38.9 billion per year. States' share: \$29.4 billion]
 - Federal government smoking-caused Medicare expenditures each year: \$57.4 billion
 - Other federal government tobacco-caused health care costs (e.g. through VA health care): \$20.5 billion
- Annual health care expenditures solely from secondhand smoke exposure: \$6.99 billion

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

- Productivity losses caused by smoking each year: \$181 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: \$1,223 per household
- Smoking-caused health costs and productivity losses per pack sold in USA (low estimate): \$31.08 per pack
- Weighted average retail price per pack in the USA (including sales tax): \$7.19

Tobacco Industry Advertising & Political Influence

- Annual tobacco industry spending on marketing its products nationwide: \$8.2 billion (\$22.5 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, 2020 election cycle: more than \$1.1 million
- Tobacco industry expenditures lobbying Congress in 2020: \$28.2 million

Sources of Information for Tobacco's Toll in the USA. *Youth cigarette use.* 2020 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS). The 2019 NYTS found that 5.8% of high school students smoked. Current smoker defined as having smoked in the past month. The 2019 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, using a different methodology than the NYTS, found that 6.0% 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.* 2020 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS). The 2019 NYTS found that 9.0% of high school males used cigars. *Youth E-Cigarette Use.* 2021 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS). The 2020 NYTS found that 19.6% of high school students used e-cigarettes, but this is not comparable to the 2021 NYTS due to a methodology change. *Youth Tobacco Use.* 2020 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS). The 2019 NYTS found that 31.2% 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 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, NSDUH: Detailed Tables*, Table 4.9A <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2019-nsduh-detailed-tables>. *Secondhand smoke exposure.* CDC, "Exposure to Secondhand Smoke Among Nonsmokers—United States, 1988-2014," *MMWR* 67(48): 1342-1346, <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/pdfs/mm6748a3-H.pdf>. Brody DJ, Lu Z, Tsai J. Secondhand smoke exposure among nonsmoking youth: United States, 2013–2016. *NCHS Data Brief*, no 348. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2019. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db348.htm> *Adult smoking.* CDC, "Tobacco Product Use Among Adults—United States, 2019," *MMWR* 69(46): 1736-1742, November 20, 2020, <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/pdfs/mm6946a4-H.pdf>.

Smoking deaths and disease. CDC, "The Health Consequences of Smoking – 50 Years of Progress A Report of the Surgeon General 2014," <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/50-years-of-progress-by-section.html>; Smoking-related disease and disability from CDC, *Smoking & Tobacco Use*, http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/fast_facts/index.htm#toll.

Smoking-caused costs. Xu, X et al., "U.S. healthcare spending attributable to cigarette smoking in 2014," *Preventive Medicine*, 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, for 60.7% of their Medicaid expenditures. National health care costs are in 2014 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 have been adjusted to 2014 dollars using the same methodology that CDC has used in the past. **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 2014 dollars. 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, *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 2014 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.

See the following for examples of studies on non-health care costs from tobacco use. *Fire costs.* Hall, Jr., JR, National Fire Protection Association, *The Smoking-Material Fire Problem*, November 2007, <http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files//PDF/OS.SmokingMaterials.pdf>; U.S. Fire Administration/National Fire Data Center, U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), *Residential Smoking Fires and Casualties*, Topical Fire Research Series 5(5), June 2005, <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/tfrs/v5i5.pdf>. *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. *Other non-health costs.* 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; CDC, *MMWR* 46(44), November 7, 1997. *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.

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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/>.