



Preventing Millions of Lives Lost to Tobacco Use

Making the Next Generation Tobacco-Free

January 2014 marked the 50th anniversary of the landmark Surgeon General’s Report linking smoking to lung cancer. This year’s report, *The Health Consequences of Smoking – 50 Year of Progress, a Report of the Surgeon General*, highlights the toxicity of and toll tobacco has taken, the potential for continued lives lost and calls for forceful and sustained action in tobacco control and prevention. Since 1964, tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke prematurely claimed the lives of more than 20 million Americans. Tobacco use is responsible for 480,000 premature deaths each year and almost \$300 billion in health care costs and lost productivity. Additionally, tobacco use is a pediatric epidemic with almost 90 percent of adult smokers starting as kids. The report concludes that without action, 5.6 million youth under the age of 18 today will die prematurely from tobacco use.

The report recommends evidence-based tobacco control strategies including raising the retail price of tobacco products, smoke-free air policies, high-impact media campaigns, full access to cessation treatments, fully funding of comprehensive statewide tobacco control programs, reducing the nicotine content in tobacco products to make them less addictive, and greater restrictions on the sale of tobacco products.

Without forceful and sustained action, 5.6 million youth are projected to die prematurely from a tobacco-related illness.

State Specific Projected Youth Smokers and Premature Deaths from Tobacco Use

These estimates represent the number of youth aged 0 to 17 currently alive today that will eventually die prematurely from a tobacco-related illness if smoking rates remain the same as they are today. For example, of the 73.7 million youth alive today, 17.3 million will become smokers in their lifetime and 5.6 million of those youth will die prematurely because of their tobacco use.

State	Population under 18 years old	Projected Number of Youth Smokers	Projected Number of Deaths
Alabama	1,124,406	336,200	108,000
Alaska	187,100	43,600	14,000
Arizona	1,620,894	359,800	115,000
Arkansas	710,881	214,700	69,000
California	9,240,219	1,376,800	441,000
Colorado	1,231,358	283,200	91,000
Connecticut	793,558	175,400	56,000
Delaware	205,050	53,700	17,000
District of Columbia	109,480	22,300	7,000
Florida	4,002,480	844,500	270,000
Georgia	2,490,125	637,500	204,000
Hawaii	303,011	67,000	21,000
Idaho	426,653	94,300	30,000
Illinois	3,064,065	720,100	230,000
Indiana	1,591,477	471,100	151,000
Iowa	722,953	172,100	55,000
Kansas	724,304	191,200	61,000
Kentucky	1,018,238	371,700	119,000
Louisiana	1,117,803	307,400	98,000
Maine	265,918	84,300	27,000
Maryland	1,343,800	288,900	92,000

Massachusetts	1,401,415	322,300	103,000
Michigan	2,266,870	666,500	213,000
Minnesota	1,276,148	319,000	102,000
Mississippi	745,333	213,900	68,000
Missouri	1,403,475	398,600	128,000
Montana	221,980	59,000	19,000
Nebraska	463,405	118,600	38,000
Nevada	663,583	128,700	41,000
New Hampshire	274,840	67,900	22,000
New Jersey	2,026,384	445,800	143,000
New Mexico	514,442	124,500	40,000
New York	4,263,154	873,900	280,000
North Carolina	2,286,528	562,500	180,000
North Dakota	154,608	43,400	14,000
Ohio	2,663,674	809,800	259,000
Oklahoma	937,363	275,600	88,000
Oregon	860,624	213,400	68,000
Pennsylvania	2,739,386	761,500	244,000
Rhode Island	216,474	48,700	16,000
South Carolina	1,080,090	322,900	103,000
South Dakota	204,169	65,700	21,000
Tennessee	1,494,016	391,400	125,000
Texas	6,985,639	1,557,800	498,000
Utah	887,972	120,800	39,000
Vermont	123,951	31,500	10,000
Virginia	1,856,737	469,800	150,000
Washington	1,584,967	324,900	104,000
West Virginia	384,041	147,900	47,000
Wisconsin	1,317,557	332,000	106,000
Wyoming	135,490	37,800	12,000
Total:	73,728,088	17,371,900	5,557,000

*The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention developed these projects by using the current smoking rate for 18-30 year olds to calculate the anticipated number of smokers in the 0-17 year old birth cohort, current population data, and a probably of smoking-attributed mortality of 32 percent. See Table 12.2.1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Smoking – 50 Year of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office of Smoking and Health, 2014.

The **American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network** supports a comprehensive approach to addressing tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke in the United States. Our advocacy strategy includes:

- Increasing the price of all tobacco products through tobacco tax increases
- Implementing comprehensive smoke-free policies in communities
- Fully funding and sustaining evidence-based, statewide tobacco prevention and cessation programs, including ensuring access to clinical cessation services
- Working with the Food and Drug Administration to effectively implement the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act to comprehensively regulate tobacco products and marketing

ACS CAN works in partnership with federal, state and local policymakers across the country to ensure that tobacco use is addressed comprehensively in each community.