

Smoking-Related Cancer Deaths by State, 2020

Cigarette smoking is responsible for 480,000 premature deathsⁱ and more than \$240 billion in U.S. health care spending annually and nearly \$185 billion in lost productivity.^{ii,iii} These numbers do not take into account cancer deaths caused by secondhand smoke which causes nearly 42,000 deaths among people who do not smoke, including up to 7,300 lung cancer deaths.^{iv,v} Tobacco use causes about one-third of cancer deaths in the nation overall, but the burden varies by state.

The 15 states with the greatest proportion of smoking related cancer deaths in 2020 – Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia – also have historically higher tobacco use rates, excluding Maine. West Virginia had the greatest proportion of smoking related cancer deaths – 37.8 percent or 1,339 adults – caused by cigarette smoking.

Number and Proportion of Smoking-Related Cancer Deaths by State in 2020

STATE	TOTAL NUMBER OF CANCER DEATHS CAUSED BY CIGARETTE SMOKING	% OF ALL CANCER DEATHS CAUSED BY CIGARETTE SMOKING	RANK BY PROPORTION
Alabama	2,627	33.6%	9
Alaska	228	28.2%	33
Arizona	2,255	25.9%	44
Arkansas	1,741	36.1%	3
California	8,966	22.3%	50
Colorado	1,365	24.3%	48
Connecticut	1,152	27.1%	39
Delaware	471	31.3%	18
District of Columbia	177	25.1%	47
Florida	9,509	30.6%	20
Georgia	3,988	29.9%	24
Hawaii	429	25.3%	46
Idaho	531	26.0%	42
Illinois	4,917	29.5%	27
Indiana	3,320	33.8%	7
Iowa	1,303	31.4%	16
Kansas	1,162	30.4%	21
Kentucky	2,865	37.2%	2
Louisiana	2,259	32.7%	12
Maine	784	33.6%	8
Maryland	1,982	26.0%	43
Massachusetts	2,279	28.1%	34
Michigan	4,724	31.9%	15
Minnesota	1,882	28.6%	30
Mississippi	1,639	33.1%	11
Missouri	3,150	34.4%	5

STATE	TOTAL NUMBER OF CANCER DEATHS CAUSED BY CIGARETTE SMOKING	% OF ALL CANCER DEATHS CAUSED BY CIGARETTE SMOKING	RANK BY PROPORTION
Montana	402	27.6%	36
Nebraska	668	28.4%	31
Nevada	1,172	30.1%	22
New Hampshire	602	30.6%	19
New Jersey	2,637	25.5%	45
New Mexico	599	23.6%	49
New York	6,052	27.3%	37
North Carolina	4,661	32.2%	13
North Dakota	241	28.3%	32
Ohio	5,883	33.5%	10
Oklahoma	2,111	34.2%	6
Oregon	1,601	27.9%	35
Pennsylvania	5,672	30.0%	23
Rhode Island	423	31.3%	17
South Carolina	2,562	32.1%	14
South Dakota	325	29.1%	29
Tennessee	3,741	34.9%	4
Texas	8,351	27.0%	40
Utah	370	15.7%	51
Vermont	286	29.8%	25
Virginia	3,178	29.3%	28
Washington	2,389	26.9%	41
West Virginia	1,339	37.8%	1
Wisconsin	2,331	29.6%	26
Wyoming	195	27.2%	38
Total	123,496	29.3%	

Citation: Smoking-Related Cancer Deaths in 2020 Analysis by ACS, 2023.

ACS CAN Position

In order to reduce tobacco-related cancer deaths and achieve health equity, ACS CAN advocates for:

- ❖ Adequately funding evidence-based tobacco prevention and cessation programs that work to identify and eliminate tobacco-related disparities, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's national *Tips from Former Smokers* campaign and state-based programs;
- ❖ Regular and significant increases in federal, state, and local excise taxes that will increase the price of all tobacco products;
- ❖ Increasing access to comprehensive cessation coverage in Medicaid and private insurance plans that encompass individual, group, and telephone counseling and all seven FDA-approved tobacco cessation medications;
- ❖ Advocating for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to use its full authority to regulate tobacco products and prohibit all flavored products, including menthol; and
- ❖ Implementing comprehensive smoke-free policies in all workplaces, including restaurants, bars, and gaming facilities.

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Updated 4.04.24

ⁱ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014.

ⁱⁱ Xu X, Shrestha SS, Trivers KF, Neff L, Armour BS, King BA. U.S. Healthcare Spending Attributable to Cigarette Smoking in 2014. Preventive Medicine 2021 (150): 106529. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2021.106529>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Shrestha SS, Ghimire R, Wang X, Trivers KF, Homa DM, Armour BS. Cost of Cigarette Smoking Attributable Productivity Losses, United States, 2018. Forthcoming at Am J Prev Med 2022.

^{iv} HHS, 2014.

^v American Nonsmokers' Rights (ANR) Foundation. BRIDGING THE GAP: Status of Smokefree Air in the United States 2022, retrieved from <https://no-smoke.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/BridgingtheGap-ExecutiveSummary.pdf>.