

The Toll of Tobacco in Arkansas

Tobacco Use in Arkansas

High school students who smoke	20.7% (32,700)
Male high school students who use smokeless or spit tobacco	18.4% (females use much lower)
Kids (under 18) who become new daily smokers each year	3,900
Kids exposed to secondhand smoke at home	177,000
Packs of cigarettes bought or smoked by kids each year	7.5 million
Adults in Arkansas who smoke	22.4% (474,800)

Nationwide, youth smoking has declined dramatically since the mid-1990s, but that decline has slowed considerably in recent years. The smoking rate among high school students - 20 percent in 2007 - has not declined significantly since 2003, following a 40 percent decline between 1997 and 2003, from 36.4 percent to 21.9 percent.

In addition, 13.4 percent of high school males currently use spit tobacco. U.S. adult smoking declined to 19.8 percent (about 43 million) in 2007, a significant decline from the 2006 smoking rate of 20.8 percent.

Deaths in Arkansas from Smoking

Adults who die each year from their own smoking	4,900
Kids now under 18 and alive in Arkansas who will ultimately die prematurely from smoking	64,000
Adult nonsmokers who die each year from exposure to secondhand smoke	510

Smoking kills more people than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides combined -- and thousands more die from other tobacco-related causes -- such as fires caused by smoking (more than 1,000 deaths/year nationwide) and smokeless tobacco use. No good estimates are currently available, however, for the number of Arkansas citizens who die from these other tobacco-related causes, or for the much larger numbers who suffer from tobacco-related health problems each year without actually dying.

Smoking-Caused Monetary Costs in Arkansas

Annual health care costs in Arkansas directly caused by smoking	\$812 million *
- Portion covered by the state Medicaid program	\$242 million
Residents' state & federal tax burden from smoking-caused government expenditures	\$562 per household
Smoking-caused productivity losses in Arkansas	\$1.30 billion

Amounts do not include health costs caused by exposure to secondhand smoke, smoking-caused fires, spit tobacco use, or cigar and pipe smoking. Other non-health costs from tobacco use include residential and commercial property losses from smoking-caused fires (more than \$500 million per year nationwide); extra cleaning and maintenance costs made necessary by tobacco smoke and litter (about \$4+ billion nationwide for commercial establishments alone); and additional productivity losses from smoking-caused work absences, smoking breaks, and on-the-job performance declines and early termination of employment caused by smoking-caused disability or illness (dollar amount listed above is just from productive work lives shortened by smoking-caused death).

Tobacco Industry Influence in Arkansas

Annual tobacco industry marketing expenditures nationwide	\$13.4 billion
Estimated portion spent for Arkansas marketing each year	\$160.5 million

Published research studies have found that kids are twice 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 one-third of underage experimentation with smoking is attributable to tobacco company advertising.

More detailed fact sheets on tobacco's toll in each state are available by emailing factsheets@tobaccofreekids.org

CAMPAIGN for TOBACCO-FREE Kids®

***The Arkansas Center for Health Improvement has more conservatively estimated direct health care costs associated with tobacco to be approximately \$629 million.**

