



## ***The Toll of Tobacco Use***

In the United States, tobacco is the single greatest cause of disease and premature death today and is responsible for more than 430,000 deaths each year. Nearly 25% of adults currently smoke and 3,600 children and adolescents become regular users of tobacco every day.<sup>1</sup>

In Oklahoma<sup>2</sup>, about 650,000 adult Oklahomans, one in four, currently use tobacco. It is the leading cause of preventable death, killing more Oklahomans than alcohol, auto accidents, AIDS, suicides, murders and illegal drugs combined.

Oklahoma has one of the highest percentages of smoking-related deaths in the nation. Each year:

- 5,800 die from smoking
- 700 non-smokers die from exposure to secondhand smoke
- 87,000 youths, aged newborn to 17, who are living today will die from tobacco addiction in the future.

Tobacco use causes:

- 82% of lung cancer deaths
- 80% of deaths from COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- 17% of deaths from heart disease
- 11% of deaths from stroke

Tobacco use is linked to:

- Low birth weight and pregnancy complications
- Miscarriage
- Premature birth and stillbirth
- SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome)
- Cervical cancer and infertility in women
- Asthma attacks
- Bronchitis and pneumonia
- Erectile dysfunction
- Childhood ear infections (otitis media)

### **Our Children Are Becoming Addicted**

- Each day in the United States, approximately 3,600 young people between the ages of 12 and 17 years initiate cigarette smoking, and an estimated 1,100 young people become daily cigarette smokers.<sup>3</sup>
- In 2007, 20% of high school students in the United States were current cigarette smokers—approximately 19% of females and 21% of males.<sup>4</sup>
- Over 75 percent of all Oklahoma smokers became regular users during their teenage years.<sup>5</sup>
- Currently, 15% of Oklahoma youth in grades 6-8 and 33% of youth in grades 9-12 currently use some form of tobacco products. Half of these youth indicate they would like to quit.<sup>6</sup>
- More than 78,000 Oklahoma children already use tobacco. Each day, the equivalent of another classroom gets hooked.<sup>7</sup> (About 7,500 each year.)<sup>8</sup>
- The tobacco industry refers to our children as “replacement smokers”, replacing those who have quit tobacco use and/or died. They entice youth with flavored cigarettes, cigars and smokeless tobacco such as strawberry, chocolate, cherry, banana, wine, scotch, and gin.<sup>9</sup>

## **Financial Cost**

The financial burden of tobacco use is staggering.

From 2000–2004, cigarette smoking was estimated to be responsible for \$193 billion in annual health-related economic losses in the United States: \$96 billion in direct medical costs and \$97 billion in lost productivity.<sup>10</sup>

### **Tobacco use, annually, costs Oklahomans<sup>11</sup>:**

- \$1.2 billion in total medical expenses
- \$218 million in Medicaid expenditures
- \$1.6 billion in lost productivity due to premature death.
- The cost to each Oklahoman is about \$750.
- Every pack of cigarettes sold costs Oklahoma's economy \$7.62 in medical costs and lost productivity due to premature death and disease.
- On average, smokers have 50% more missed workdays than non-smokers – a huge cost to employers.

### **Tobacco Users Want to Quit!**

- Among current U.S. adult smokers, 70% report that they want to quit completely.<sup>12</sup>
- More than 54% of current high school cigarette smokers in the United States tried to quit smoking within the preceding year.<sup>13</sup>
- 57% of adult smokers quit for one or more days in the past year.<sup>14</sup>
- 65% are seriously thinking about quitting in next six months.<sup>15</sup>
- 62% believe they will be successful at giving up smoking altogether.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,

[http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\\_statistics/fact\\_sheets/youth\\_data/tobacco\\_use/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/youth_data/tobacco_use/index.htm)

<sup>2</sup> Oklahoma State Department of Health, *Oklahoma State Plan for Tobacco Use Prevention & Cessation*, 2009.

<sup>3</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. *2007 National Survey on Drug Use and Health*. (PDF–1.28 MB) (Office of Applied Studies, NSDUH Series H-27, DHHS Publication No. SMA 05–4061) Rockville, MD.

<sup>4</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Cigarette Use Among High School Students—United States, 1991–2007*. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* [serial online]. 2008; 57(25):686–688

<sup>5</sup> Oklahoma State Department of Health. *Oklahoma State Plan for Tobacco Use Prevention & Cessation*, 2005.

<sup>6</sup> Oklahoma State Department of Health. *Oklahoma Youth Tobacco Survey*, 2005.

<sup>7</sup> Meg Gallogly. *Key State Specific Tobacco Related Data & Rankings* (fact sheet). Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, June 21, 2007

<sup>8</sup> Oklahoma State Department of Health. *Oklahoma State Plan for Tobacco Use Prevention & Cessation*, 2005.

<sup>9</sup> Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids.

<sup>10</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Smoking-Attributable Mortality, Years of Potential Life Lost, and Productivity Losses—United States, 2000–2004*. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. 2008;57(45):1226–1228.

<sup>11</sup> Oklahoma State Department of Health. *Oklahoma State Plan for Tobacco Use Prevention & Cessation*, 2009.

<sup>12</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Cigarette Smoking Among Adults—United States, 2000*. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 2002;51(29):642–645

<sup>13</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System. Youth Online: Comprehensive Results, 2005*. [updated 2006 Apr 5].

<sup>14</sup> Oklahoma State Health Department, *Smoking Among Adults Fact Sheet*, [http://www.health.state.ok.us/program/tobac/Oklahoma%20Adults\\_Smoking.pdf](http://www.health.state.ok.us/program/tobac/Oklahoma%20Adults_Smoking.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> Ibid

<sup>16</sup> Ibid