

The Toll of Tobacco in Minnesota

Tobacco Use in Minnesota

High school students who smoke	28.9% (86,000)
Male high school students who use smokeless or spit tobacco	17.6% (females use much lower)
Kids (under 18) who become new daily smokers each year	13,100
Kids exposed to secondhand smoke at home	282,000
Packs of cigarettes bought or smoked by kids each year	16.9 million
Adults in Minnesota who smoke	22.2% (806,000)

National youth smoking rates have declined somewhat since 1997, but remain at historically high levels. According to the National Youth Tobacco Survey, 28.4% of all U.S. high school kids smoke and 11.6% of high school males use spit tobacco. Adult smoking rates have decreased gradually since the 1980s, and 23.3% of U.S. adults now smoke.

Deaths in Minnesota From Smoking

Adults who die each year from their own smoking	5,600
Kids now under 18 and alive in Minnesota who will ultimately die prematurely from smoking	112,000
Adults, children, & babies who die each year from others' smoking (secondhand smoke & pregnancy smoking)	620 to 1,100

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 Minnesota 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 Minnesota

Annual health care costs in Minnesota directly caused by smoking	\$1.61 billion
- Portion covered by the state Medicaid program	\$363 million
Residents' state & federal tax burden from smoking-caused government expenditures	\$529 per household
Smoking-caused productivity losses in Minnesota	\$1.02 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 Minnesota

Annual tobacco industry marketing expenditures nationwide	\$9.7 billion
Estimated portion spent for Minnesota marketing each year	\$196.7 million

Published research studies have found that kids are three times more 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.

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