

Did You Know

This About Smoking?

Your participation in the American Cancer Society's Smoke-Free New England campaign can make a difference! We're working to clear the air in New England by promoting programs that are proven to reduce smoking and eliminate the health risks and costs associated with tobacco use. You can help by joining other community leaders interested in preventing and reducing tobacco use, by implementing smoke-free policies, and by supporting our legislative efforts. Consider these facts:



Smoke-free work environments encourage people to quit.

Smokers in workplaces with effective clean indoor air policies consume 11%–15% fewer tobacco products than average – and have a quit rate that is 84% higher than average.¹

When cigarette taxes are increased, smoking rates decrease.

States that implemented significant tobacco tax increases in the past decade – Washington State, Hawaii, Arizona, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and the District of Columbia – have seen smoking rates drop dramatically compared to the national average.²

According to the Center for Tobacco Free Kids, each 10% increase in the retail price of cigarettes will reduce adult smoking by about 4% and reduce teen smoking by approximately 7%.

Cigarette tax increases are very effective at reducing smoking among pregnant women.

A study published in the November 2001 issue of the *American Journal of Public Health* showed that cigarette tax increases are very effective at reducing smoking among pregnant women, which improves their health and the health of their newborns while reducing health care costs. The study shows that for every 10% increase in cigarette prices, there is a resulting 7% decline in smoking among pregnant women.³

Cigarette companies need kids.

The vast majority of all smokers begin their tobacco addiction habit before they reach 18 – even though it's illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18 – and almost nobody tries smoking for the first time after 18. In other words, if large numbers of kids did not try smoking, become regular users, and turn into addicted adult smokers, the big tobacco companies would eventually not have enough adult customers.⁵

Smoking prevalence is higher among people with lower educational achievement.

In 2000, smoking prevalence among those with 16 or more years of education was 12.3%, compared to prevalence of 31.7% among those with nine to 11 years of education. By race, smoking among adult Blacks is similar to Whites (22.8% vs. 23% in 2000); however, among high school students, smoking prevalence is highest for both males and females among White (non-Hispanic/Latino) teenagers, followed by Hispanics/Latinos, and was lowest among Blacks.⁶

More than four million American kids 12 to 17 years old are smokers.⁴

1.800.ACS.2345
www.cancer.org



¹ "Impact of Workplace Restrictions on Consumption and Incidence." Confidential 1992 document. 2001. Philip Morris Inc. 14 Dec. 2001. <<http://www.pmdocs.com/getallimg.asp?DOCID=2045447779/7806>>

² "Higher Cigarette Taxes: Reduce Smoking, Save Lives, Save Money." Special Reports 31 Oct 2001. National Center for Tobacco Free Kids. 14 Dec. 2001. <<http://tobaccofreekids.org/reports/prices/>>

³ Ringel JS, Evans WN. "Cigarette Taxes and Smoking During Pregnancy." *American Journal of Public Health* 2001; 91: 1851-1856. <<http://www.ajph.org> >

⁴ "Did You Know?" 2001. National Center for Tobacco Free Kids. 14 Dec. 2001. <<http://tobaccofreekids.org/help/>>

⁵ "Cigarette Companies Need Kids to Survive." Research Center. 2001. National Center for Tobacco Free Kids. 14 Dec. 2001. <<http://tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/index23.shtml>>

⁶ "Tobacco Use Nationwide – 2000" Prevalence Data. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. 31 Mar. 2001. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 14 Dec. 2001. <<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss/education.asp?cat=TU&yr=2000&qkey=621&state=US>>