



2009 Pennsylvania Tobacco Control Issues and Talking Points

Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Funding

- In 2001, Pennsylvania passed legislation, known as Act 77, to allocate the MSA funds. Tobacco Prevention and Cessation is listed as receiving 12 % of the funds. In 2005, these funds were redirected. Twenty-five percent of the funding went to other health care initiatives. The redirection process has continued.
- Tobacco prevention programs are a smart investment for states that save money by reducing smoking-caused health care costs. Tobacco use costs the nation – and the states - \$96 billion a year in health care costs. Pennsylvania spends \$5.2 billion each year in smoking-caused health care costs. In the short term, the best state tobacco prevention programs have saved \$3 in health care costs for every dollar spent. These savings grow sharply over time.
- Tobacco prevention works, it is a proven solution. Tobacco prevention saves money and most importantly, lives.

Clean Indoor Air

- Everyone deserves to be protected from secondhand smoke.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has classified secondhand smoke as a Class A carcinogen meaning it is a known carcinogen. Secondhand smoke contains more than 60 carcinogens, and more than 4,000 chemicals including formaldehyde, arsenic, cyanide and carbon monoxide.
- Twenty-four states have comprehensive clean indoor air laws which include 100% of all restaurants and bars.

Tobacco Taxes

- Tobacco taxes saves lives by encouraging young people never to start and adults who smoke to quit as well as generate revenue for the Commonwealth.
- For every 10% cigarette price increase there is a reduction of 6.5% smoking by youth, 2% by adults and a total consumption decrease of 4%.
- Pennsylvania is the only state that does not have an excise tax on other tobacco products.

Cessation Coverage

- An American Lung Association study found in Pennsylvania, the annual direct costs to the economy attributable to smoking were in excess of \$16 billion – this includes workplace productivity losses of \$9.6 billion; premature death losses of \$5.5 billion; and direct medical expenditures of \$6.9 billion.
- The retail price of a pack of cigarettes in Pennsylvania is on average \$4.72. The combined medical costs and productivity losses in Pennsylvania attributable to each pack of cigarettes sold are approximately \$23.78 per pack of cigarettes.
- The ratio of benefits to cost varies from \$1.28 to \$2.76 saved per dollar spent on smoking cessation programs, depending upon the type of intervention.
- The average benefits across all potential smoking cessation programs are nearly 60% greater than the average costs.

A comprehensive tobacco control program can reduce tobacco use, save lives and save money. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends states have well-funded tobacco prevention and cessation programs; meaningful tobacco taxes; and comprehensive clean indoor air legislation.

Please educate your elected officials on the important public health role they can play in their communities and throughout the Commonwealth. For additional information about specific legislation please contact Deborah Brown of the American Lung Association at 717-541-5864, 23 or dbrown@lunginfo.org