

SECONDHAND SMOKE FACT SHEET

The Facts

- There is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke exposure.
- Full protection from secondhand smoke is only achieved by eliminating smoking in indoor spaces.
- Secondhand smoke causes premature death and disease in otherwise healthy nonsmokers, including heart disease and lung cancer.
- Separate smoking sections and ventilation systems do not effectively protect nonsmokers from secondhand smoke.
- Annual, estimated, additional costs associated with secondhand smoke's effects on nonsmokers, per smoker per year (lost productivity & excess medical costs): \$490 (www.no-smoke.org/document.php?id=209)
- Landlords and restaurants with smoke-free premises may be able to negotiate lower fire and property insurance premiums.
- Fire insurance is commonly reduced in smoke-free businesses by: 25% (www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic.information/secondhand_smoke/guide/bunhess/pfs/save-lives-save-money.pdf)
- The EPA estimates that smoke-free restaurants will realize cost savings in cleaning and maintenance costs by: \$190 per 1000 square feet each year (www.no-smoke.org/document.php?id=209)
- Children exposed to secondhand smoke have more frequent ear and respiratory infections, asthma and bronchitis.
- Children of parents who smoke ½ pack of cigarettes or more per day, more than double their risk of hospitalization for respiratory illness.

Secondhand smoke is a toxic mixture of the fumes given off by the burning ends of a cigarette, pipe or cigar (side-stream smoke)- and the noxious, deadly cloud that is emitted at the mouthpiece and from the lungs of smokers (mainstream smoke).

West Virginia and Secondhand Smoke

- Annual deaths from others' smoking (secondhand smoke and maternal smoking): 410 (Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, www.tobaccofreekids.org/reports/settlements/toll.php?StateID=WV)
- West Virginia adults who know that secondhand smoke is harmful to nonsmokers: 92.2% (WV 2008 Adult Tobacco Survey)
- Nonsmokers who reported that no one smoked in the last 7 days in their own homes: 78% (WV 2008 Adult Tobacco Survey)
- West Virginians that have rules that forbid smoking anywhere in their homes: 72.3% (WV 2008 Adult Tobacco Survey)

Tobacco-Related Monetary Costs in West Virginia

- Annual health care expenditures in the WV directly caused by smoking: \$1.3 billion (WV Health Statistics Center, Tobacco Is Killing and Costing Us, combined years 2002-2006)
- Annual health care expenditures in West Virginia from secondhand smoke exposure: \$30.4 million (Behan, et al. (2005) apportioned according to 2005 U. S. Census)
- State Medicaid program's total health expenditures caused by smoking: \$229.0 million (Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, cites: www.tobaccofreekids.org/reports/settlements/toll.php?StateID=WV)
- Citizens' state/federal taxes to cover smoking-caused government costs: \$584/household (Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, www.tobaccofreekids.org/reports/settlements/toll.php?StateID=WV)
- Annual smoking-caused productivity losses in West Virginia: \$1.09 billion (WV Health Statistics Center, Tobacco Is Killing and Costing Us, combined years 2002-2006)
- Annual smoking-caused health costs and productivity losses per pack sold in West Virginia: \$11.66 (WV Health Statistics Center, Tobacco Is Killing and Costing Us, combined years 2002-2006, dividing total costs by total packs sold in WV)

The productivity loss amount, above, is from smoking-death-shortened work lives, alone. Additional work productivity losses totaling in the tens of billions nationwide come from smoking-caused work absences, on-the-job performance declines, and disability during otherwise productive work lives. Other non-healthcare costs caused by tobacco use include direct residential and commercial property losses from smoking-caused fires (about \$400 million nationwide); and the costs of extra cleaning and maintenance made necessary by tobacco smoke and tobacco-related litter (about \$4+ billion per year for commercial establishments alone). www.tobaccofreekids.org

Helpful Websites: www.wvdtb.org www.smokefreewv.org www.wvdhhr.org/bph/hsc/statserv www.tobaccofreekids.org www.no-smoke.org www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic.information/secondhand_smoke/guide

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<http://www.wvdtb.org/Tools/FactSheets/tabid/394/Default.aspx>