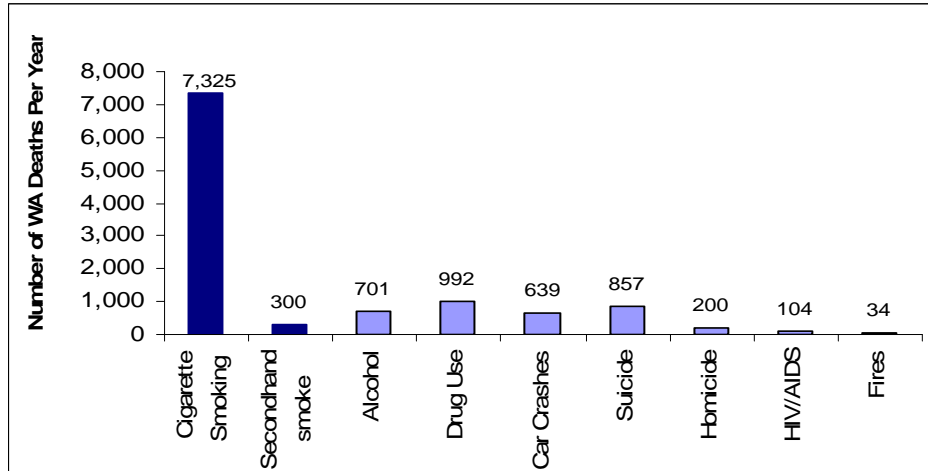


Burden of Tobacco in Washington State: Fact Sheet

Despite Washington State’s great progress in reducing tobacco use and exposure, tobacco remains a leading cause of preventable disease and death in our state, and a significant contributor to healthcare costs.

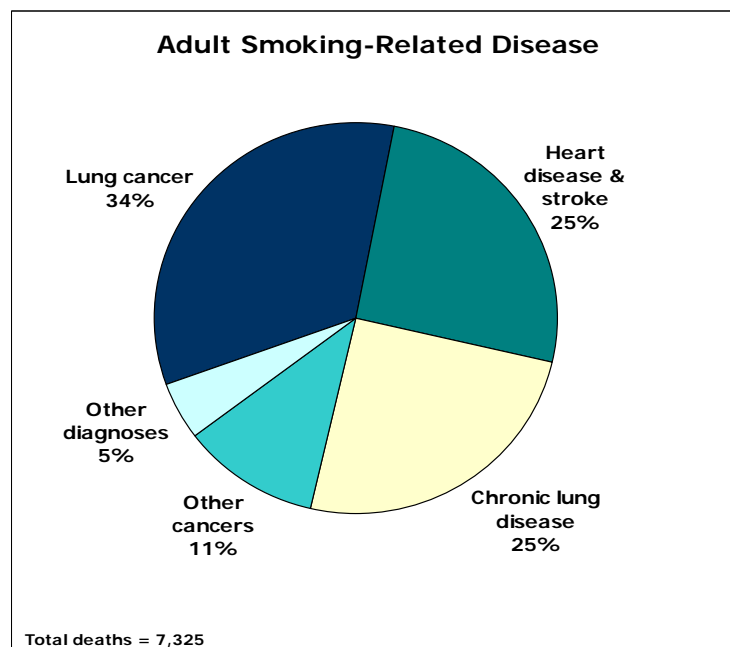
People in Washington Are Dying because of Tobacco

Each year, more people in Washington die from tobacco-related illnesses than from alcohol, drug use, car crashes, suicide, homicide, AIDS, and fires *combined*. Approximately 7,625 people died in Washington State last year as a result of tobacco use or exposure.



Source: smoking-related deaths – CDC SAMMEC, estimates based on 2007 Death data and 2007 smoking estimates; secondhand-smoke deaths – Washington State Department of Health, *Secondhand Smoke in Washington State*; other causes of death – 2007 Washington State Death Certificate System.

The most common tobacco-related illnesses include cancer (lung, mouth/throat, pancreas, stomach, kidney, cervical and bladder), heart attack, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and emphysema. Most of these deaths are not quick, but instead result in long suffering for the people affected and for the people who care about them.



Source: smoking-related deaths – CDC SAMMEC, estimates based on 2007 Death data and 2007 smoking estimates; other diagnosis include pneumonia, influenza & bronchitis/emphysema.

These deaths – and the suffering for individuals and their families – can be prevented. Sustained, comprehensive tobacco control programs have been shown to reduce premature deaths and disease. As a result of state tobacco control programs, thousands can live longer, healthier lives.

Washington Citizens Pay a High Price for Tobacco-related Diseases


In addition to the heavy toll of human life, tobacco use has a large impact on the economy of Washington. Tobacco-related diseases, caused both by active smoking and secondhand smoke exposure, are expensive. Direct costs result from primary care, specialty care, hospitalization, prescription and non-prescription drugs, nursing home care and personal health care. Indirect costs include lost productivity due to disease-related absence from work or inability to continue working, both for those with illness and the family or friends who take care of them.

Everyone in Washington State pays for smoking-related illnesses

Total annual costs:
 \$1.5 Billion for total personal healthcare
 \$1.6 Billion in productivity losses

\$651 Million is spent every year for public-funded healthcare to treat tobacco-related illnesses.

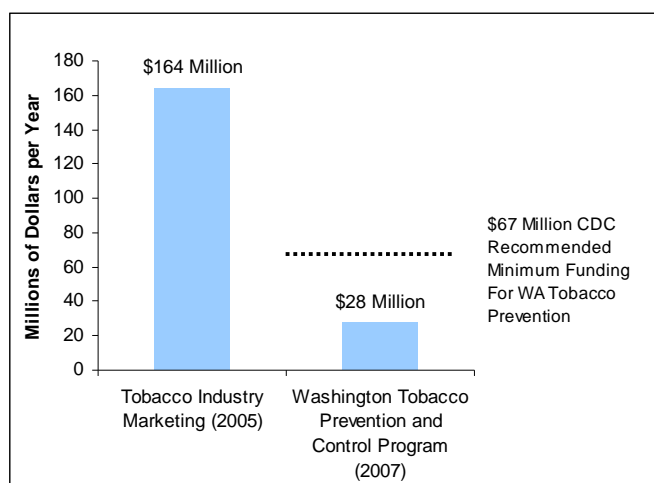
Every Washington household pays an estimated \$631 per year for smoking-related healthcare – even if nobody in that household smokes.



Source: annual total expenditures CDC SAMMEC; household estimate from Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids.

The Tobacco Industry Far Outspends Tobacco Prevention in Washington

In spite of what is known about the dangers and costs of tobacco use, the industry spends millions actively marketing their products to people in Washington. In contrast, Washington spends one-sixth of this amount to promote healthy, tobacco-free lives. The budget for Washington’s program is less than half the amount recommended by the Centers for Disease Control; in 2011, the program budget is scheduled to be cut in half.



Source: Tobacco Industry expenditures from US Federal Trade Commission 2004-05

Tobacco Prevention Efforts Must Continue

We know what works. Washington must:

- Not back away from the continued need to prevent tobacco use initiation among young people
- Support people quitting tobacco
- Protect nonsmokers from exposure to secondhand smoke; and
- Reach out to communities that need help the most.