

Tobacco Facts

Tobacco-related diseases kill about 7,500 Washington residents every year.

Tobacco-related medical costs in Washington exceed \$1.5 billion annually.

The tobacco industry spends over \$160 million annually in Washington promoting its products and generating new smokers.

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Community & Tribal Programs

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Research shows that it is necessary to conduct a broad array of tobacco prevention activities in communities to bring about meaningful and sustained reductions in tobacco use. Washington's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program (Tobacco Program) provides more than \$10 million annually to county health departments and community organizations in all 39 Washington counties and to 27 federally recognized tribes to deliver tobacco prevention activities. In addition, the Tobacco Program funds activities in five culturally diverse communities.

How the community component works

Community-based tobacco prevention programs are effective because they can be conducted according to the unique needs of each community. These activities include:

- Forming partnerships between schools, government agencies, and other community-based groups to help smokers quit and prevent others from starting.
- Raising public awareness of tobacco issues and resources to help smokers quit, such as through promotion of the Washington State Tobacco Quit Line.
- Training doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals to help their patients quit.
- Educating families and others about the dangers of secondhand smoke.
- Developing and providing resources to help under-served population groups fight tobacco use.

State support for communities

In addition to direct funding, the state Tobacco Prevention and Control Program provides technical assistance to local programs, including:

- Educational materials to local programs through a materials clearinghouse.
- Specialized training and one-on-one consultation.
- Information on the latest research and evaluation results.

A comprehensive approach to fighting tobacco use

Research shows that tobacco prevention programs must conduct a comprehensive set of strategies to be effective. The Washington State Tobacco Prevention and Control Program provides services to help people quit, conducts public awareness and media campaigns, supports local programs in communities and schools, supports enforcement of policies to keep kids from accessing tobacco products, and evaluates the effectiveness of program activities.