

Impact of Tobacco in Tennessee: The Need to Invest in Tobacco Control to Reduce Taxpayer Costs, Protect Kids, and Save Lives

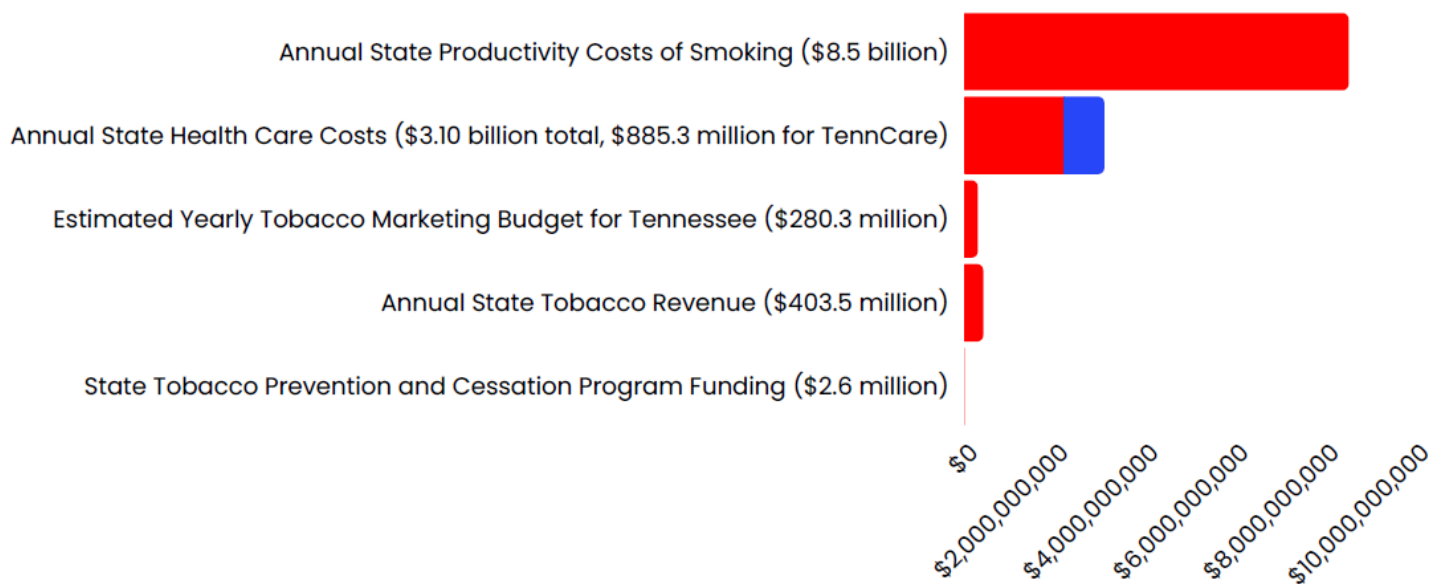
Health Costs of Tobacco to Tennessee

Tobacco is an addictive and deadly product. Smoking harms nearly every organ in the bodyⁱ and remains the number one cause of preventable death. In Tennessee:

- 18.5% of adults smoke cigarettes.ⁱⁱ
- 20.7% of high school students use tobacco products including 4.9% who smoke cigarettes, 19.0% who use e-cigarettes, 3.1% who use smokeless tobacco, and 4.4% who use cigars.ⁱⁱⁱ
- 35.2% of cancer deaths are caused by smoking.^{iv}

Economic Costs of Tobacco to Tennessee

Smoking is estimated to cost Tennessee \$3.10 billion in direct health care costs, including \$885.3 million in Medicaid costs annually.^v These amounts do not include health costs caused by exposure to secondhand smoke, smoking-caused fires, smokeless tobacco use, or cigar and pipe smoking. Additionally, smoking costs the state \$8.5 billion in productivity costs annually. Tobacco use imposes additional costs such as workplace productivity losses and damage to property. These costs far outpace the \$403.5 million in annual tobacco revenue the state receives from tobacco settlement payments and tobacco taxes. On average, Tennessee residents pay \$1,334 per household in state and federal taxes from smoking-caused government expenditures, whether they smoke or not. It is vital that fact-based programs are in place to reduce tobacco use and reduce taxpayer-funded health care costs.



Investment in Tennessee's Youth

Tennessee receives \$403.5 million in tobacco revenue annually from tobacco settlement payments and taxes combined, yet currently invests only \$2.6 million in tobacco prevention and cessation programs, which is only 3.4% of the \$75.6 million the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that Tennessee spend to combat the health and economic consequences of tobacco. Increasing funding to \$13 million is a vital first step to protect our Tennessee youth from the dangers of tobacco.

Countering Tobacco Industry Marketing

A well-funded fact-based tobacco control program is needed to counteract the \$280.3 million per year that tobacco companies are spending to market their deadly and addictive products in Tennessee.^{vi} Increased funding is needed to negate the influence Big Tobacco's marketing has on youth. As Big Tobacco has been working hard to addict future generations with e-cigarettes and other tobacco products, the need for funding for tobacco prevention programs has never been greater.

Recommendation

Increasing funding to \$13 million for Tennessee's Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Program is crucial to prevent kids from starting to use tobacco and help people already addicted to tobacco quit. Overall, for every \$1 spent on comprehensive tobacco control programs, states receive up to \$55 in savings from averted tobacco-related health care costs.^{vii} ACS CAN urges Tennessee to increase funding to \$13 million annually for its vital tobacco prevention and cessation program to reduce taxpayer costs, protect kids, and save lives.

ⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Health Effects of Cigarette Smoking. Updated April 28, 2020. https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/health_effects/effects_cig_smoking/

ⁱⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2022 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System <https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/brfssprevalence/index.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/results.htm>

^{iv} Islami, F, Marlow, EC, Zhao, J, et al. Person-years of life lost and lost earnings from cigarette smoking-attributable cancer deaths, United States, 2019. *Int J Cancer*. 2022; 151(12): 2095- 2106. doi:[10.1002/ijc.34217](https://doi.org/10.1002/ijc.34217)

^v Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The Toll of Tobacco in Tennessee. Updated 11.21.23. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/tennessee>

^{vi} Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The Toll of Tobacco in Tennessee. Updated 11.21.23. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/tennessee>

^{vii} Office on Smoking and Health at a Glance, retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/resources/publications/aag/tobacco-use.htm>.