Toll of Tobacco in Washington State

THE TOLL OF TOBACCO IN WASHINGTON
- High school students who smoke: 6.3% (22,400)
- Male high school students who smoke cigars (female use much lower): 5.5%
- High school students who use e-cigarettes: 12.7%
- Kids (under 18) who become new daily smokers each year: 2,100
- Adults in Washington who smoke: 14.0% (806,300)
- Proportion of cancer deaths in Washington attributable to smoking: 27.4%

U.S. NATIONAL DATA
- High school smoking rate (2017): 7.6%
- Male high school students who smoke cigars (2017): 9.0%
- High school students who use e-cigarettes: 11.7%
- Adult smoking rate (2017): 13.9%

DEATHS IN WASHINGTON FROM SMOKING
- Adults who die each year from their own smoking: 8,300
- Kids now under 18 and alive in Washington who will ultimately die prematurely from smoking: 104,000

Smoking kills more people than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides combined — and thousands more die from other tobacco-related causes — such as fires caused by smoking (more than 1,000 deaths/year nationwide) and smokeless tobacco use.

SMOKING-CAUSED MONETARY COSTS IN WASHINGTON
- Annual health care costs in Washington directly caused by smoking: $2.81 billion
- Medicaid costs caused by smoking in Washington: $788.5 million
- Residents’ state & federal tax burden from smoking-caused government expenditures: $735 per household
- Smoking-caused productivity losses in Washington: $2.2 billion

Amounts do not include health costs caused by exposure to secondhand smoke, smoking-caused fires, smokeless tobacco use, or cigar and pipe smoking. Tobacco use also imposes additional costs such as workplace productivity losses and damage to property.

TOBACCO INDUSTRY INFLUENCE IN WASHINGTON
- Annual tobacco industry marketing expenditures nationwide: $9.5 billion
- Estimated portion spent for Washington marketing each year: $92.8 million

Published research studies have found that kids are twice as sensitive to tobacco advertising as adults and are more likely to be influenced to smoke by cigarette marketing than by peer pressure. One-third of underage experimentation with smoking is attributable to tobacco company advertising.