TOBACCO 101

- 17.8% of adults aged 18 or older are current cigarette smokers\(^1\).
- The estimated economic costs attributable to smoking and exposure to tobacco smoke continue to increase and now approach $300 billion annually, with direct medical costs of at least $130 billion and productivity losses of more than $150 billion a year\(^2\).
- Close to 70% of tobacco users report wanting to quit\(^3\).
- Among children who live in homes in which no one smokes indoors, those who live in multiunit housing (for example, apartments or condos) have 45% higher cotinine levels (or almost half the amount) than children who live in single-family homes\(^4\).
- Just over 25% of U.S. nonsmokers had measurable levels of cotinine, a nicotine byproduct metabolized by the body after breathing in secondhand smoke\(^5\).
- The money cigarette and smokeless companies spent in 2012 on US marketing amounted to about $26 million each day\(^6\).
- In the United States, smoking causes 87% of lung cancer deaths, 32% of coronary heart disease deaths, 79% of all cases of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and 33% of cancer deaths\(^4\).
- 90% of smokers start before the age of 18\(^7\).
- Exposure to tobacco products and secondhand smoke can be very dangerous to both people and pets.
- There is no safe level of exposure to SHS\(^8\).

June 2015
Sources


