

# TOBACCO

- 14.5% of adults and 4.7% of high school students in Illinois smoke.
- 19.9% of high schoolers in Illinois use electronic cigarettes/vaping products.
- 29.3% of cancer deaths in Illinois are attributable to smoking.
- 18,300 adults in Illinois die each year from their own smoking and 230,000 Illinois kids under 18 will die prematurely due to smoking.<sup>1</sup>

## AAFP on Tobacco

The leading cause of death and preventable disease in the U.S. is cigarette smoking and secondhand smoke exposure.<sup>2</sup> Cigarette smoking has been causally linked to increased risk of disease in almost all organs in the body, including heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and lung cancer.<sup>2</sup>

The AAFP urges all state, federal and private sector institutions involved in tobacco prevention and cessation to increase new initiatives to reduce smoking rates to less than 10 percent by 2024 and eliminate death and disease caused by tobacco use.

## Physicians: Part of the Solution

Family physicians are trusted community members and excellent messengers to encourage smoking cessation with their patients.<sup>3</sup>

Approximately 70 percent of individuals who use tobacco products see a primary care physician every year.<sup>4</sup>

Nearly 70 percent of adults who smoke want to quit, which can be helped by a family physician's offering advice, referrals to tobacco cessation programs, and overall support.<sup>5</sup>

## Economic Impacts of Tobacco Use in Illinois<sup>1</sup>

\$5.27 billion	in lost productivity, including sick/medical leave from tobacco use, early departure from the workforce due to poor health, smoking breaks, secondhand smoke exposure, and early death
\$5.49 billion	in annual health care costs directly caused by smoking
\$1.9 billion	in Medicaid costs caused by smoking
\$772	in state and federal tax burden per household from smoking-related government expenditures

## State Solutions to Reduce Tobacco Use and Protect Patients in the Illinois<sup>6</sup>

- **Enacting an e-cigarette flavor ban and raising the state's minimum tobacco and e-cigarette sales age to 21** reduces the number of youth using e-cigarettes.
- **Raising tobacco excise taxes and enacting an e-cigarette excise tax** increases funds for tobacco prevention and cessation programs and replaces funds lost to lost productivity and health care costs from smoking. Illinois' current cigarette excise tax is \$2.98 per pack of 20 cigarettes, 36% of the price of cigars, and 36% of the price of chewing tobacco and ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the U.S.
- **Enacting a smoking ban in bars or restaurants** reduces the secondhand smoke exposure and health risks for non-smokers.
- **Comprehensive Medicaid coverage of smoking cessation**, including nine evidence-based smoking cessation treatments, reduces health care costs caused by smoking. Illinois' Medicaid program does not cover group counseling, nor do all plans cover individual counseling.

## References

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