

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

Tobacco Use and Cancer 2007

General

- Smoking-related diseases are the most preventable cause of death in our society.
- An estimated 45 million adults in the U.S. currently smoke, and about half will die prematurely from smoking.
- An estimated 46.5 million American adults have quit smoking.
- The annual American death toll from tobacco-related causes is estimated at 438,000 or one in five deaths.
- Approximately half of all long-term smokers die from diseases caused by smoking. Of these, approximately half die in middle age (35-69).
- Smoking accounts for at least 30% of all cancer deaths and 87% of lung cancer deaths. It is also a major cause of heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, chronic bronchitis, and emphysema, and is associated with gastric ulcers.

Trends in Tobacco Use

Smoking —

- Cigarette smoking among adults 18 and older dropped from 42% to 21% between 1965 and 2005 – a 50% decrease. For the past eight years, smoking among adults has been declining, although prevalence seems to have leveled off from 2004 to 2005.
- Current cigarette smoking among U.S. high school students increased significantly between 1991 and 1997, from 28% to 36%, but then declined dramatically to 23% by 2005. Recent data suggests this trend may have leveled off.
- In 2005, men (24%) were more likely to smoke than women (18%).
- In 2005, 5.7 million African American adults were smokers. The occurrence of current cigarette smoking among adults was higher among African American men than white men, but lower among African American women compared to white women.
- For more than a decade, African American youth have had a lower prevalence of cigarette smoking than other racial and ethnic groups. As of 2005, 14% of African American boys and 11.8% of African American girls smoke cigarettes.

Smokeless Tobacco –

- Among adults 18 years and older, national data from 2004 showed 6% of men and 1% of women were current users of smokeless tobacco.
- The risk of cancer of the cheek and gums may increase 50-fold among long-term snuff users.

Cigars –

- In 1998, the median percentage of adults 18 and older who ever smoked cigars was 40%, and the median percentage of adults 18 and older who smoked cigars in the past month was 6%.
- Nationwide in 2005, 14% of U.S. high school students (grades 9 to 12) had smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars on at least one of the past 30 days.
- In 2001, seven major cigar manufacturers began providing five rotating health warnings on labels of cigars sold in the United States.

(MORE)

Health Costs Associated with Tobacco Use

Lung Cancer —

- Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths for men and women (160,390), and this year alone, there will be about 213,380 new cases diagnosed in the U.S.
- Smoking is responsible for 87% of lung cancer deaths.
- Each year, about 3,000 nonsmoking adults die from lung cancer as a result of breathing second hand smoke.
- Secondhand smoke contains more than 4,000 substances, more than 50 of which are known or suspected to cause cancer.
- Lung cancer kills more African Americans than any other cancer.
- An estimated 21,550 cases of lung cancer and an estimated 16,700 deaths due to lung cancer are expected to occur among African Americans in 2007, making up about 14% of the cancer diagnoses in this group.
- Cancer of the lung is the second most common cancer in both African American men and women.
- Incidence rates continue to rise among African American women, though at a slower rate since 1989. After increasing for many decades, the rate of lung cancer among African American males has been decreasing since 1984. A decline in men and slower rate of increase among women are the result of decreases in smoking prevalence.
- When detected at a localized stage, the five-year relative survival rate for lung cancer among African Americans is 42%; however, only 14% of cases are diagnosed at that stage.

Other Cancers –

- Smoking is also associated with cancers of the mouth, lip, nasal cavity and paranasal sinuses, pharynx, larynx, esophagus, stomach, pancreas, uterine cervix, kidney, and bladder, and acute myeloid leukemia.

Medical Expenditures Associated with Tobacco-Related Illnesses

Medical costs –

- In the U.S., smoking causes 3.3 million years of potential life lost for men, and 2.2 million years of potential life lost for women. Smoking, on average, reduces life expectancy by approximately 14 years.
- Mortality-related productivity losses in the United States amounted to \$92 billion annually during 1997-2001, up about \$10 billion from the \$81.9 billion lost annually during 1995-1999.
- Each pack of cigarettes sold in 1999 cost society \$3.45 in medical care due to smoking and \$3.73 in productivity losses, for a total of \$7.18 per pack.
- Other costs must be taken into account, including work loss, bed-disability days, loss of productivity, and prenatal care for low-birthweight infants of mothers who smoke.

(MORE)

Smoking Cessation

Quitting Tobacco –

- People, who quit, regardless of age, live longer than people who continue to smoke.
- Smokers who quit before age 50 cut their risk of dying in the next 15 years in half, compared with those who continue to smoke.
- Quitting lowers the risk of cancers and other major diseases, including heart disease and stroke.
- In 34 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, the majority of adults (50% or more) who ever smoked have now quit smoking.

The American Cancer Society is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by saving lives, diminishing suffering, and preventing cancer through research, education, advocacy and service. Founded in 1913 and with national headquarters in Atlanta, the Society has 13 regional Divisions and local offices in 3,400 communities, involving millions of volunteers across the United States. For more information anytime, call toll-free 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

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Statistics referenced from the American Cancer Society's Cancer Facts & Figures 200, American Cancer Society's Cancer Facts & Figures for African Americans 2007-2008, and from the CDC MMWR, "Tobacco Use Among Adults – United States, 2005," October 27, 2006.