



The Cost of Tobacco use in Connecticut - 2015

"My greatest achievement was going after the tobacco companies. But my biggest disappointment is not being able to determine how the nearly \$5 billion in settlement money allocated to Connecticut has been spent."

—Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, one of the top five lead attorneys in the 1998 Tobacco Settlement, ten years later.

- **\$2.03 billion** - Annual tobacco related health care costs
- **4900** - Annual deaths in Connecticut (Another 450 non-smokers die from second hand smoke exposure)
- **4300** - Youths under 18 begin smoking each year in Connecticut
- **2730** - New cases of lung cancer in Connecticut in 2014
- **1760** - Estimated number of lung cancer deaths in Connecticut in 2014
- **450** - Secondhand smoke caused deaths in Connecticut
- **15.5%** of adults smoke in Connecticut (17.8% National)
- **13.5%** of high school aged youth smoke in Connecticut (15.7% National)
- **90%** - Number of adult smokers that started before they were 18 years old.
- **120 million** - Packs of cigarettes sold to Connecticut residents in 2012
- **8.1 million** - Packs bought or smoked by kids in Connecticut per year
- **\$3.40** State cigarette tax (3rd Highest in the nation)
- **\$8.23** Average retail cost of a pack of cigarettes in Connecticut,
- **\$14.30** - Real cost per pack of cigarettes in Connecticut (Including health care & lost productivity)
- **\$3003** - average spent on cigarettes per smoker per year (One pack a day).
- **\$3391** - Economic cost of smoking per smoker per year.
- **\$430 million** cost to Medicaid
- **30%** of Connecticut Medicaid beneficiaries smoke (Almost 50% higher than the general population)
- **\$78.1 million** spent by tobacco companies on marketing in Connecticut (\$8.5b)
- **\$505 million** in tobacco generated revenue to state (MSA and tax revenue)
- **\$32 million** CDC recommendation for tobacco prevention and cessation spending annually (9.1% of the 505 million in annual revenue)
- **\$6 million** 2013 state expenditures for tobacco (13.7% of CDC recommendation - 1.1% of the estimated \$535 million in revenue)
- **70%** of Connecticut's smokers indicate they want to quit
- **56%** of smokers attempt to quit each year.
- **5%** of those smokers that attempt to quit are successful for longer than 12 months
- **And finally** - Smoking kills more than twice as many people in Connecticut than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, accidents, murders and suicides *combined*.