



## THE COST OF INDIANA'S SMOKING CRISIS

Indiana's opioid epidemic has received much-needed attention recently. But there is an even bigger public-health crisis that our state has so far failed to address: smoking. **In 2016, Indiana had the 10th-highest smoking rate in the U.S.** More than one in five Hoosier adults smoke—and we're paying an enormous price for it.

**Each year, more than 11,000 people in Indiana die prematurely from cigarette smoking, and more than 1,400 die prematurely from exposure to secondhand smoke.** Tobacco use also imposes a major financial burden on our entire state. Each year, tobacco costs Indiana \$7.6 billion in added health care costs, lost productivity and premature deaths. Of that, \$2.2 billion is related to the toll of secondhand smoke.

## THE STATE OF TOBACCO CONTROL FUNDING IN INDIANA

Compelling evidence demonstrates that **comprehensive tobacco control programs reduce tobacco use and the human and economic costs that result from it.** To assess the state of tobacco control funding in Indiana, the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation recently commissioned a study from experts at the Health Policy Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).

The research shows that Indiana used to be a national leader in funding efforts to address smoking. In fiscal year 2001, for example, our state allocated \$35 million of its own resources and \$1.4 million in federal dollars to tobacco control—an amount that was in line with the

recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Since then, however, we have fallen far behind. In 2016, Indiana spent just \$8.2 million in federal and state funds to prevent Hoosiers from starting to smoke, help them quit and protect people from secondhand smoke. The CDC recommends Indiana spend \$73.5 million annually—nine times the current level.

We not only fall far below the CDC recommendation, but also trail other states in tobacco control funding. Indiana spends just \$1.23 per person, less than half of the national average of \$2.92 per capita.

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## CREATING A HEALTHIER, STRONGER INDIANA

Funding efforts to curb smoking at the levels recommended by the CDC would have a powerful impact. **The report concludes that Indiana's adult smoking rate would drop by 11 percent, resulting in nearly 120,000 fewer smokers over age 18.** Such a drop in tobacco use would save our state more than \$373 million in health care costs and more than \$311 million in lost productivity costs. **There would also be close to 1,200 fewer pregnant women who smoke—an important step toward tackling Indiana's higher-than-average infant mortality rate.**

### Sources

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Indiana University Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health. Report on the Tobacco Epidemic in Marion County and Indiana. September 2016.

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Alliance for a Healthier Indiana. Tackling Tobacco Use.