

Impact of Tobacco in Pennsylvania: The Need to Invest in Tobacco Control to Protect Kids, Save Lives, and Reduce Taxpayer Costs

Health Costs of Tobacco to Pennsylvania

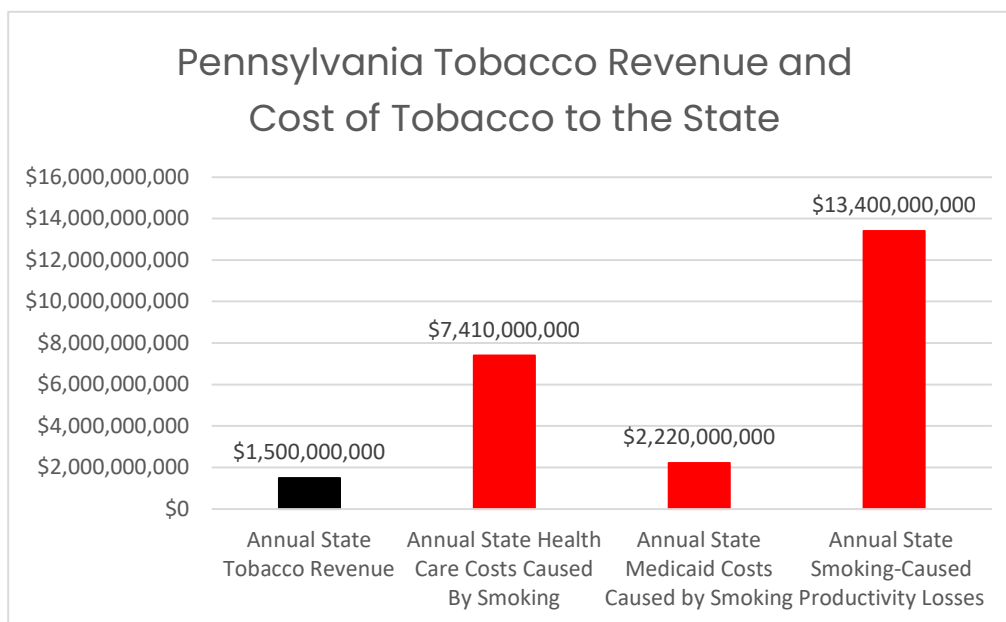
Tobacco is an addictive and deadly product. Smoking harms nearly every organ in the bodyⁱ and remains the number one cause of preventable death. In Pennsylvania:

- Over 30% of cancer deaths are due to smoking.
- 14.9% of adults smoke cigarettes.ⁱⁱ
- 19.7% of high school students use tobacco products including 4.2% who smoke cigarettes, 19.2% who use e-cigarettes, 3.4% who use smokeless tobacco, and 3.6% who smoke cigars.ⁱⁱⁱ

If nothing is done to reduce smoking rates, **244,000 Pennsylvania kids** currently under 18 will ultimately die prematurely from smoking. Pennsylvania can and must do better.

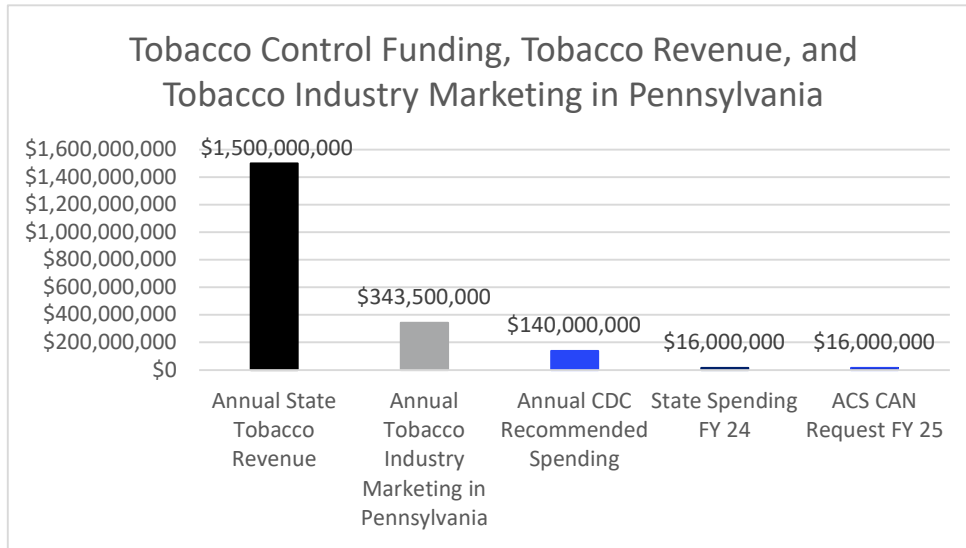
Economic Costs of Tobacco to Pennsylvania

Smoking is estimated to cost Pennsylvania \$7.41 billion in direct health care costs, including \$2.22 billion in Medicaid costs annually.^{iv} These amounts do not include health costs caused by exposure to secondhand smoke, smoking-caused fires, smokeless tobacco use, or cigar and pipe smoking. Additionally, smoking costs the state \$13.4 billion in productivity costs annually. Tobacco use also imposes additional costs such as workplace productivity losses and damage to property. These costs far outpace the \$1.5 billion in annual tobacco revenue the state receives from tobacco settlement payments and tobacco taxes. On average Pennsylvania residents pay \$1,267 per household in state and federal taxes from smoking-caused government expenditures^v, whether they smoke or not. It is vital that fact-based programs are in place to reduce tobacco use and reduce taxpayer-funded health care costs.



Investment in Pennsylvania’s Youth

Pennsylvania receives over \$1.5 billion in tobacco revenue annually from tobacco settlement payments and taxes combined, yet currently invests only \$16.4 million in tobacco prevention and cessation programs, which is only 11.7% of the \$140 million the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that Pennsylvania spend to combat the health and economic consequences of tobacco. Protecting the program’s funding level at \$16.4 million is a vital first step to protect our Pennsylvania youth from tobacco.



Countering Tobacco Industry Marketing

A well-funded fact-based tobacco control program is needed to counteract the \$343.5 million per year that tobacco companies are spending to market their deadly and addictive products in Pennsylvania.^{vi} Increased funding is needed to negate the influence Big Tobacco’s marketing has on youth. As Big Tobacco has been working hard to addict future generations with e-cigarettes and other tobacco products, the need for funding for tobacco prevention programs has never been greater.

Recommendation

Protecting funding for Pennsylvania’s Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control at 4.5% of the Master Settlement Agreement (approximately \$16.4 million in 2024) is crucial to prevent kids from starting to use tobacco and help people already addicted to tobacco quit. ACS CAN urges Pennsylvania to protect funding for its vital tobacco prevention and cessation program to reduce taxpayer costs, protect kids, and save lives.

ⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Health Effects of Cigarette Smoking. Updated April 28, 2020. https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/health_effects/effects_cig_smoking/

ⁱⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2022 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System <https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/brfssprevalence/index.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. <https://nccd.cdc.gov/Youthonline/App/Results.aspx?LID=PA>

^{iv} Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. Updated 4.17.24 <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/pennsylvania>

^v Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. Updated 4.17.24. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/pennsylvania>

^{vi} Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. Updated 1.8.24. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/what-we-do/us/statereport/pennsylvania>