



Financial impact of smoking is staggering

When it comes to information about smoking, the emphasis is usually on the impact to personal health. But smoking also has a draining impact on health care and productivity.

An estimated 46.5 million adults in the United States smoke cigarettes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC estimates the economic burden of tobacco use is more than \$75 billion in medical expenditures, up from about \$43 billion in 1993. In Michigan, the CDC estimates that annual health care expenditures directly caused by tobacco use are \$2.65 billion.

Smoking also has an impact on productivity in the workplace. The CDC estimates the indirect annual costs of smoking result in lost productivity at \$80 billion, including \$3.4 billion in Michigan. This figure, according to the CDC, does not take into account smoking-related illness or morbidity, absenteeism, excess smoking breaks or the effect of second-hand smoke. According to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, smokers are absent 6.5 days more from work per year than nonsmokers and smokers make six more visits each year to health care facilities than nonsmokers.

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