

# Tobacco Is Killing (and Costing) Us, 2006-2010

## July 2013 Summary Report

The West Virginia (WV) Division of Tobacco Prevention (DTP) collaborates with state and federal partners to promote tobacco use prevention, cessation, and tobacco-free environments. Successes have been achieved in reducing smoking among youth, implementing clean indoor air policies, and promoting the WV Quitline and other cessation services. According to the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), sustained investments in comprehensive tobacco control programs can decrease smoking prevalence, prevent millions of premature deaths, and save billions of dollars. The DTP and the WV Health Statistics Center collaborated to publish *Tobacco Is Killing (and Costing) Us, 2006-2010* summary to outline the burden of smoking in WV. WV data for 2006-2010 is analyzed through SAMMEC (Smoking Attributable Mortality, Morbidity and Economic Costs), which estimates smoking-related deaths, Years of Potential Life Lost, smoking-related direct health care costs and productivity losses for West Virginia adults. The SAMMEC calculations are based on data for current and former smokers age 35 and older, by gender.<sup>1</sup>

### Cigarette Smoking Prevalence

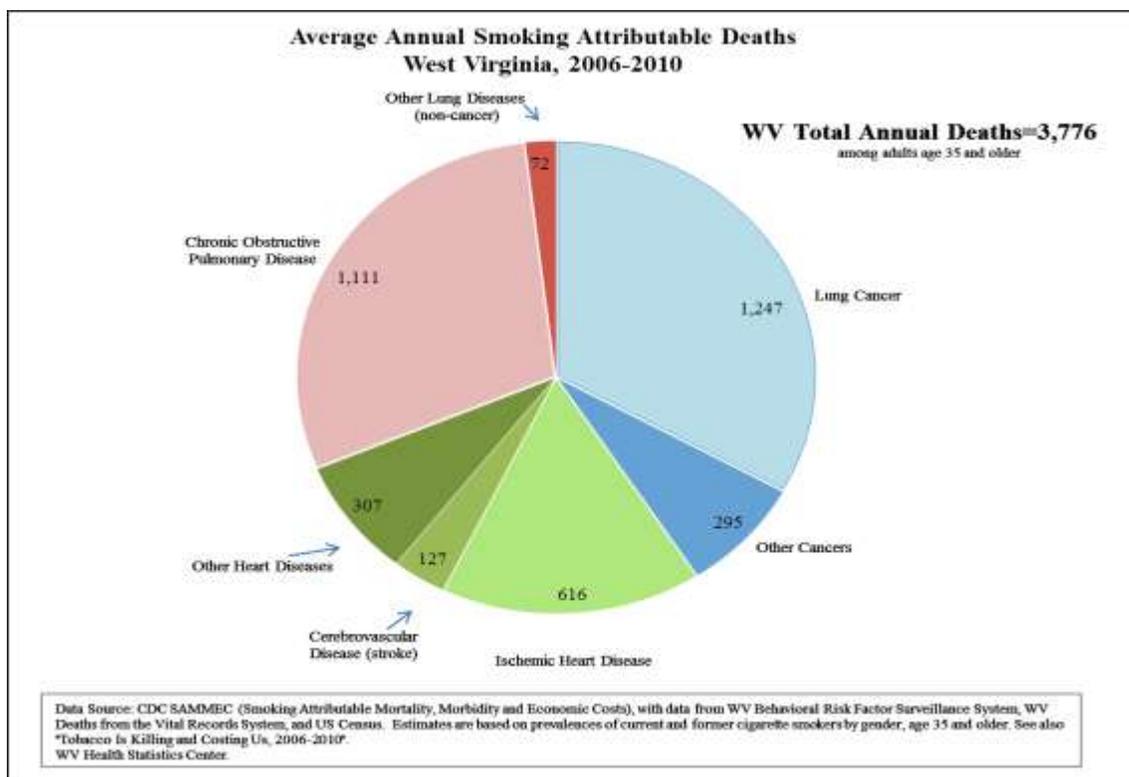
WV continues to have one of the highest rates of cigarette smoking in the country. Despite successes in reducing smoking among WV youth, there have yet to be any declines in smoking among WV adults.

- The current cigarette smoking prevalence for WV adults (age 18 and older) ranged from 25.6% to 26.9% during the reporting period. In 2008 (midyear for this period) there were about 380,233 adult smokers.<sup>2</sup>
- Generally speaking, the prevalence of smoking decreases with increasing education levels, income levels, and age. The highest smoking rates are among young adults aged 18-34.<sup>2</sup>
- Reported current cigarette smoking has significantly declined among high school students (38.5% in 2000 to 22.4% in 2011) and among middle school students (18.1% in 2000 to 8.3% in 2011). Youth reporting “never having smoked a cigarette...” has significantly increased among both high school (25.7% in 2000 to 50.5% in 2011) and middle school students (53.1% in 2000 to 75.1% in 2011).<sup>3</sup>

### Smoking-Related Deaths

Cigarette smoking harms nearly every organ in the body and causes 443,000 deaths each year in the U. S.<sup>4</sup>

- An average of 3,776 WV adults age 35 and older died each year from diseases related to cigarette smoking.<sup>1</sup>
- About 19% of all deaths (or nearly 1 in 5 deaths) of WV adults age 35 and older were caused by cigarette smoking.<sup>5</sup>
- Smoking in WV is the cause of 66% of the cancer deaths, 16% of heart disease deaths, and 66% of lung disease deaths among WV adults age 35 and older.<sup>5</sup>



Smoking-Related Cause of Death	WV Average Annual Deaths
Smoking-Related Cancers	1,543
Smoking-Related Heart Diseases	1,050
Smoking-Related Lung Diseases	1,183
<b>Total Smoking-Related Deaths</b>	<b>3,776</b>

### Smoking-Related Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL)

Smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in WV and the U. S. In fact, nearly half of the 44.5 million Americans who smoke will die prematurely of tobacco-related disease.<sup>6</sup> YPLL is a measure of the number of years of life lost due to death before the age of 75 and is an indicator of premature and preventable mortality.

In each year 2006-2010:

- An average of 55,151 YPLL were lost among adults age 35-74 due to premature death caused by cigarette smoking.<sup>1</sup> This is about 44% of all YPLL lost among this group.<sup>5</sup>
- Every smoker who died lost an average of 14.6 years of life due to premature death.<sup>5</sup>

### Smoking-Related Economic Costs

Smoking-related economic costs can be separated into 1) direct healthcare costs related to cigarette smoking, and 2) productivity losses due to smoking-related deaths.

- During the years 2006-2010, the estimated annual direct health care costs were \$709 million, and the estimated annual lost productivity (lost wages and other economic contributions of those who died early) amounted to \$1.07 billion.<sup>1</sup>
- Combined, these smoking-related costs totaled \$1.778 billion annually.<sup>5</sup>
- If viewed as a cost per pack of cigarettes sold in WV, it is about \$9 per pack. When expressed per smoker, it is about \$4,676 per adult smoker (18 and older) in WV.<sup>5</sup>

WV Smoking-Related Measures, 2006-2010, among adults 35 and older	
WV Annual Smoking-Related Deaths:	3776 deaths
Each WV smoker who dies prematurely, loses:	14.6 years of life
WV Annual Smoking-Related Costs:	\$1,778,000,000
Annual Costs per smoker (18 and older)	\$4,676 per smoker
Annual Costs per pack of cigarettes	\$9 per pack

#### REFERENCES:

<sup>1</sup>Smoking-Attributable Mortality, Morbidity, and Economic Costs (SAMMEC) was developed and is available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). WV data analysis through SAMMEC accessed at [http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/sammec/about\\_sammec.asp](http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/sammec/about_sammec.asp). SAMMEC only provides estimates for cigarette smoking burdens. These estimates do not include burdens of smokeless tobacco, cigar and pipe use, maternal smoking, smoking-caused fire deaths, nor secondhand smoke exposure; nor does it include productivity losses due to *morbidity* from smoking-related illness.

<sup>2</sup>WV BRFSS (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System), WV Health Statistics Center.

<sup>3</sup>WV YTS (Youth Tobacco Survey), WV Health Statistics Center.

<sup>4</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Smoking-attributable mortality, years of potential life lost, and productivity losses --- United States, 2000-2004. MMWR 2008; 57(45):1226-8.

<sup>5</sup>WV Health Statistics Center further analysis of WV SAMMEC data, 2006-2010.

<sup>6</sup>Ending the Tobacco Problem: A Blueprint for the Nation, National Academics Press, Washington, DC; May 2007.



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