



## BENEFITS & SAVINGS FROM EACH ONE PERCENTAGE POINT DECLINE IN SMOKING RATES IN THE USA

The following estimates show the benefits and savings that are obtained in the USA for each one percentage point decline in adult and youth smoking rates in the country (e.g., from new country investments in tobacco prevention or increased country tobacco tax rates). These estimates can also be switched around to show what harms and costs would occur with each one percentage point increase to its smoking rates or from each one percentage point reduction the nation fails to obtain (e.g., because federal and state governments fail to invest adequate funds in tobacco prevention or do not regularly increase tobacco tax rates).

### Fewer Smokers

**Fewer current adult smokers: 2,306,000**

**Fewer current pregnant smokers: 43,000**

**Fewer current high school smokers: 174,000**

**Kids alive today in the USA who will not become addicted adult smokers: 749,000**

### Public Health Benefits

**Today's adults saved from dying prematurely from smoking: 611,000**

**Today's high school smokers saved from dying prematurely from smoking: 56,000**

**Kids alive today in the USA who will not die prematurely from smoking: 240,000**

	<u>First Year</u>	<u>Over 5 Years</u>
<b><i>Fewer smoking-affected births:</i></b>	<b>43,000</b>	<b>215,000</b>
<b><i>Fewer smoking-caused heart attacks:</i></b>	<b>1,180</b>	<b>15,200</b>
<b><i>Fewer smoking-caused strokes:</i></b>	<b>680</b>	<b>8,160</b>

[The number of heart attacks and strokes prevented each year by a one-time decline in adult smoking rates of one percentage point starts out small but grows sharply until it peaks and stabilizes after about ten years.]

### Monetary Benefits (Reduced Public, Private, and Individual Smoking-Caused Costs)

	<u>First Year</u>	<u>Over 5 Years</u>
<b><i>Savings from smoking-affected birth reductions</i></b>	<b>\$73.4 million</b>	<b>\$367.1 million</b>
<b><i>Savings from heart attack &amp; stroke reductions</i></b>	<b>\$79.9 million</b>	<b>\$1,085.5 million</b>

[Annual savings from fewer smoking-caused heart attacks and strokes grows substantially each year as more and more are prevented by the initial one percentage point smoking decline. Savings from prevented smoking-caused cancer are even larger, but do not begin to accrue until several years after the initial smoking decline.]

***Reduction to future health costs from adult smoking declines: \$21.9 billion***

***Reduction to future health costs from youth smoking declines: \$13.1 billion***

[These savings accrue over the lifetimes of the adults who quit and the youth who do not become adult smokers. Roughly 17.7% of smoking-caused healthcare expenditures in the USA are paid by the Medicaid program.]

At the same time that they reduce public and private smoking-caused costs, smoking declines also increase public and private sector worker productivity and strengthen the economy.

*Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, December 17, 2008 / Eric Lindblom*

For sources and more detail, see the TFK factsheet *Comprehensive State Tobacco-Control Programs Save Money*, <http://tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0168.pdf>. And see <http://tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/index.php?CategoryID=6> for additional related information.