



BENEFITS & SAVINGS FROM EACH ONE PERCENTAGE POINT DECLINE IN VIRGINIA SMOKING RATES

The following estimates show the benefits and savings that are obtained in Virginia for each one percentage point decline in adult and youth smoking rates in the state (e.g., from new state investments in tobacco prevention or increased statetobacco tax rates). These estimates can also be switched around to show what harms and costs Virginia would suffer from each one percentage point increase to its smoking rates or from each one percentage point reduction the State fails to obtain (e.g., because it fails to sustain adequate state tobacco prevention funding or lets its tobacco tax rates erode over time).

Fewer Smokers

Fewer current adult smokers: 58,800

Fewer current pregnant smokers: 1,080

Fewer current high school smokers: 4,300

Virginia kids alive today who will not become addicted adult smokers: 18,200

Public Health Benefits

Today's adults saved from dying prematurely from smoking: 15,600

Today's high school smokers saved from dying prematurely from smoking: 1,400

Virginia kids alive today who will not die prematurely from smoking: 5,800

	<u>First Year</u>	<u>Over 5 Years</u>
Fewer smoking-affected births:	1,080	5,390
Fewer smoking-caused heart attacks:	29	371
Fewer smoking-caused strokes:	17	199

[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>
Savings from smoking-affected birth reductions	\$1.8 million	\$9.2 million
Savings from heart attack & stroke reductions	\$1.9 million	\$26.5 million

[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: \$558.6 million

Reduction to future health costs from youth smoking declines: \$318.5 million

[These savings accrue over the lifetimes of the adults who quit and the youth who do not become adult smokers. Roughly 12.1% of smoking-caused healthcare expenditures in Virginia are paid by its Medicaid program.]

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

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> or <http://tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/index.php?CategoryID=6> for additional related information.

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, October 6, 2008 / Eric Lindblom