Tobacco Timeline

100 Years of Public Health

1881 – *The first cigarette-making machine was invented, although tobacco use was evident earlier in the 1800s.*

During WWI and WWII, free cigarettes were provided to servicemen. During the wars, changing attitudes allowed more women into the workplace and more of them began to smoke.

By 1944 – *Cigarette production was up to 300 billion a year, and servicemen accounted for nearly 75 percent of all cigarettes purchased.*

Smoking had become a popular and accepted part of culture and companies made millions of dollars from the sale of cigarettes. A couple of decades would pass before the public was warned about the associated dangers.

1964 – *In response to increasing rates of lung cancer, the U.S. Surgeon General issued a report about the dangers of cigarette smoking.*

This report identified nicotine and tar, ingredients in cigarettes, as the source. Tobacco use was deeply ingrained into the American culture and smoking continued despite the public health warnings.

1980s – *Policies aimed to reduce smoking increased as federal, state, and local governments, and private companies began restricting tobacco advertising and limiting the use of tobacco in public places.*

1993 – *The Health Department's Tobacco Prevention and Education Program was established.*

The Tobacco program was established with a small grant from CDC and lacked adequate funding at that time to be a viable player in statewide tobacco prevention efforts.

The program received about $50,000 from the Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention to develop the KICK (Keep Illegal Cigarettes from Kids) campaign, which won the 1996 Vision Award from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials.

Late 1990s – *Arkansas's high smoking rates and related diseases contributed to rising and unaffordable healthcare costs.*

At that time, Arkansas had the fourth-highest rate of age-adjusted cardiovascular and lung cancer deaths, as well as the second-highest rate of stroke deaths. Tobacco use was a contributing factor to Arkansas's poor health burden and designation as one of the least healthy states in the nation. Arkansas had the 11th-highest rate of tobacco use among high school students.

1998 – *Four major tobacco corporations and 46 state attorneys general reached a tobacco master settlement agreement (MSA) over the states' tobacco-related healthcare costs.*

As a result of the MSA, the tobacco companies offered financial payments in exchange for individual state agreements to hold the companies harmless for past and future medical claims related to tobacco use. The tobacco companies also agreed to restrict marketing to youth and to eliminate all direct and indirect lobbying efforts aimed at influencing legislation and regulation of tobacco products. On behalf of Arkansas, Attorney General Winston Bryant agreed to accept approximately $62 million MSA dollars the first year and $50-$60 million each year thereafter.

1998 – A *work group – the Coalition for a Healthier Arkansas Today (CHART) – was formed to assess the state's needs and formulate a plan to spend the MSA funds to most directly improve the health of Arkansans.*

The CHART group stipulated that all funds should be used to improve and optimize the health of Arkansans; funds should be spent on long-term investments that improve the health of Arkansans; and future tobacco-related illness and healthcare costs in Arkansas should be minimized through this opportunity.

2000 – *After the CHART plan failed to pass in a Special Session, Governor Mike Huckabee announced his intention*

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100 Years of Public Health in Arkansas

Old State House, original site of the Arkansas Department of Health

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
100 YEARS
1913 - 2013

to take the proposal "to the people" as a voter-initiated referendum in the November election.

With majority support in 73 of the state's 75 counties, the CHART plan, called the Initiated Tobacco Settlement Proceeds Act of 2000, passed with the largest majority in any statewide race that year, receiving 64 percent of the votes. With passage of the Initiated Tobacco Settlement Proceeds Act (Initiated Act 1), it was clear voters were ready for Arkansas to lead the nation in reducing tobacco use and its associated diseases.

2000 – *Initiated Act I passed during the November election and the legislature directed MSA funds toward a variety of health-related programs – following CHART plan recommendations.*

Programs and institutions that received Initiated Act I funding included the UAMS College of Public Health, the Minority Health Commission, the Arkansas Biosciences Institute, and the Delta Area Health Education Center (AHEC). With Initiated Act I funding, the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program (TPCP) was established following the CDC's Best Practices for Tobacco Prevention and Control. The TPCP was funded with 31.6 percent of the MSA dollars annually. Currently, Arkansas is the only state that continues to direct all MSA dollars toward health-related programs.

The TPCP includes components for community prevention programs; local school programs for education and prevention in grades K-12; enforcement of youth tobacco control laws; statewide programs with youth involvement to increase local coalition activities; tobacco cessation programs; tobacco-prevention programs; a comprehensive public awareness campaign; and grants and contracts funded for monitoring and evaluation, as well as data gathering.

The Health Department's comprehensive evidence-based tobacco prevention and cessation initiative has delivered results. Through the program's prevention and cessation strategies, including the Arkansas Tobacco Quitline and the award-winning Stamp out Smoking (SOS) Campaign, smoking rates among adults and children have steadily declined over the years.

As smoking rates decline and fewer cigarettes are sold, Arkansas's MSA dollars decrease. While reductions in funding can be troublesome, in this case, it is a positive sign of our state's strong tobacco prevention and cessation efforts.

2004 – *The UAMS College of Public Health (COPH) was dedicated.*

In 2005, after the death of Dr. Fay Boozman, the COPH was renamed the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health in recognition of his efforts to bring a public health college to Arkansas.

July 2006 – *The Clean Indoor Air Act took effect and made Arkansas one of 18 states in the nation to prohibit smoking in indoor workplaces and public areas and helped eliminate the public's exposure to secondhand smoke.*

Advocates for change, including local coalitions, organized to propose this new state law that banned smoking in all workplaces, including most restaurants.

Today clean indoor air is the rule in hospitals, public buildings, businesses, restaurants and even some bars. No evidence supports initial predictions that business would suffer, and compliance has been very good. The overwhelming weight of research available supports the belief that healthcare costs and worker productivity will both be affected positively in the future.

2006 – *Arkansas became the first state to implement a primary law prohibiting smoking in a car with a young child.*

The Arkansas Protection from Secondhand Smoke for Children Act of 2006 prohibited smoking in any motor vehicle in which a child who is less than six years of age and who weighs less than 60 pounds is restrained in a child passenger safety seat.

2009 – *A 56-cent per pack increase on cigarettes and smokeless tobacco products was supported by Governor Mike Beebe and approved by the General Assembly.*

Revenue generated from this tobacco tax supported a number of public health initiatives and the creation of a statewide trauma system. Act 393 of 2009 established the Arkansas Trauma System. In September 2010, three designated trauma centers were announced as part of the new system, the first of 75 indicating they would be a part of the new system. A total of 58 trauma centers were designated through January 2013.

2011 – *An amendment to the Arkansas Protection from Secondhand Smoke for Children Act was adopted and increased protection to any child under the age of 14. Arkansas is one of only four states to have such a law.*