

TOBACCO



○ Chronic Disease ○ Environmental Health ○ Emergency Preparedness ○ Family Health
○ Immunizations ○ Infectious Disease ○ Public Health Laboratory ○ Local Public Health ○ Minority Health

Tobacco use became popular during WWI and WWII as tobacco companies provided free cigarettes to servicemen. Smoking became a popular and accepted part of the culture and a couple of decades would pass before the public was warned about the associated dangers.

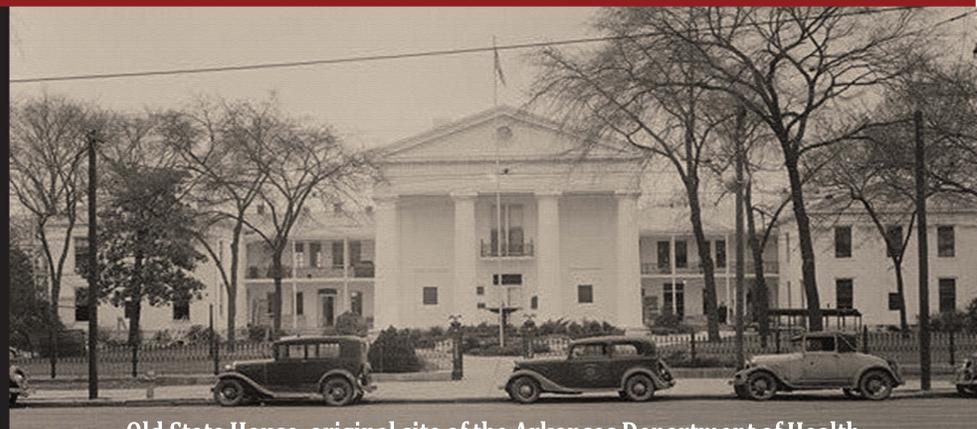
By the late 1990s, Arkansas's high smoking rates and related diseases contributed to rising and unaffordable healthcare costs. One of the state's biggest victories against the big tobacco companies occurred in 1998:

- Four major tobacco corporations and 46 state attorneys general reached a tobacco master settlement agreement (MSA) over the states' tobacco-related healthcare costs.
- Arkansas would receive approximately \$62 million MSA dollars the first year and \$50-\$60 million each year thereafter to be directed toward health-related programs.

Smoking rates among adults and children have steadily declined over the years. By 2006, clean air was the rule in restaurants and hospitals as the Clean Indoor Air Act took effect and prohibited smoking in indoor workplaces.

The Department's comprehensive evidence-based tobacco prevention and cessation program has been successful. 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.

100
Years
of Public Health
in Arkansas



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