

Let's Talk Tobacco



Over the years, tobacco has taken its toll on Arkansas, from both a financial and health point of view.

CIGARETTE SMOKE:

- Has killed more people than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders and suicides *combined*.
- Takes the lives of 510 Arkansas adult *nonsmokers* each year.
- Harms nearly every organ of the body. It has been linked to cancer, cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease and adverse reproductive effects, including low birth weight babies.
- Is the single most preventable cause of death and disease in our society, yet 4,900 Arkansas die *each year* from smoking.
- 64,000 kids currently under 18 and alive in Arkansas will ultimately die from smoking.
- Costs Arkansas \$812 million in health care each year.
- Costs each Arkansas household \$562 per year in state and federal taxes.
- Costs Arkansas \$1.4 billion each year in productivity loss.
- Is the reason 3,600 kids in Arkansas are without a parent per year.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Continue to inform and educate Arkansans about the dangers of tobacco use.
- Maintain the Arkansas Tobacco Quitline, thus providing tobacco users the resources and support they need to quit. So far, tens of thousands of tobacco users have called and 30 percent are still quit at seven months.
- Continue to fund the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program at the current (or better yet at the recommended) level.
- Continue to pass legislation that protects everyone from exposure to secondhand smoke and decreases the number of nonsmoker deaths.
- Continue to maintain a tobacco prevention and cessation program that is comprehensive, sustainable and accountable.