

Save Money, Save Lives: Facts About Tobacco-Free Workplaces

Tobacco Has a Price

In Colorado, 5,100 people die annually from smoking. Our annual healthcare costs *directly* caused by smoking are \$1.89 billion with smoking-caused production losses estimated at \$1.27 billion.ⁱ

Benefits of Adopting Tobacco Free Workplace Policies

Tobacco-free workplaces create a healthier, more productive & enjoyable environment for everyone. Comprehensive tobacco-free policies can:

- Increase productivity and decrease medical expenses (Save up to \$6000 per tobacco user, per year.)^{ii,iii}
- Lower absenteeism rates.
- Lower health insurance premiums (tobacco users have more and longer hospital stays)
- Decrease Worker's Compensation costs (\$2,189 for smokers vs. \$176 for nonsmokers)^{iv}
- Save on maintenance & cleanup costs (Cigarette butts are the most littered item in the U.S.)^v

Lost Production Time

In a national survey of over 29,000 workers, tobacco use was a leading cause of worker lost production time – greater than alcohol abuse or family emergencies. Quitting smoking can greatly improve a worker's productivity.^{vi}

Strategies to increase your bottom line

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- ✓ Prohibit tobacco use on company grounds – indoors, outdoors & parking lots.
- ✓ Remove cost barriers by providing full coverage (100%) for tobacco cessation, medication & counseling.
- ✓ The Affordable Care Act gives employers greater flexibility to help employees quit – get the facts.
- ✓ Provide information about free resources to assist with quitting.
- ✓ Offer onsite support.

Resources

- i CDC, Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs, 2014 and CDC's Smoking Attributable Mortality, Morbidity and Economic Costs, SAMMEC, average annual smoking attributable productivity losses from 2000-2004 (updated to 2009 dollars).
- ii Centers for Disease Control (CDC). "Annual Smoking Attributable Mortality, Years of Potential Life Lost, and Economic Costs-United States, 1995-1999." *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. JAMA, (287)18:2335-2356, 8 May 2002.
- iii Companies Pay Almost \$6,000 Extra Per Year for Each Employee Who Smokes, *Tobacco Control* 2014;23:5 428-433 Published Online First: 3 June 2013 doi:10.1136/tobaccocontrol-2012-050888
- iv The Association of Health Risks With Workers Compensation Costs. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*. 43(6): 534-541, June 2001.
- v "America Reaches Major Anti-Smoking Milestone," The American Legacy Foundation, November 19, 2008
- vi Stewart, WF, Ricci, JA, Chee, E, Morganstein, D. Lost productivity work time costs from health conditions in the United States: Results from the American Productivity Audit. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine* 45(12):1234-1246, 2003.