



## Tobacco Topics

### Tobacco Prevention

- [Toll of Tobacco in MN](#)
- [Supporting Tobacco Free Environments](#)
- [Tobacco Free Communities in MN Grant Program](#)
- [Tobacco Prevention Resources](#)
- [Youth Access to Tobacco](#)
- [Minnesota's Tobacco Settlement \(1998\)](#)
- [MN Youth Tobacco Prevention Initiative \(1999-2003\)](#)

### Nicotine Addiction

### Tobacco Reports

## Preventing and Reducing Tobacco Use

### Background

Tobacco use continues to take a huge toll on Minnesotans. Young people, in particular, are taking up smoking at alarming rates.

Minnesota's historic tobacco settlement—and legislation setting up a Tobacco Prevention and Local Public Health Endowment—provide additional resources needed to build upon the state's ongoing efforts to reduce the human and economic costs of tobacco use.

The Minnesota Department of Health, worked with a Tobacco Endowment Advisors group, to develop a long-term plan to reduce tobacco use among young people. It is a multi-faceted plan featuring an array of strategies that have been shown to work in other states—including public awareness and education, and community- and school-based programs.

The plan also includes specific, measurable objectives—along with rigorous evaluation—to make sure our strategies are working.

Much of the groundwork for this plan has already been laid, with research conducted by the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and strategies proposed recently by the Minnesota Public Health Improvement Partnership, a consortium of state and local organizations.

It's time to put an end to the most significant public health problem facing us today. We ask that all Minnesotans join us in "doing our part so kids don't start."

### Size of the Problem

- Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Minnesota.
- Smoking causes heart disease, cancer, chronic lung disease, and other diseases.
- Smokeless tobacco is associated with cancer of the gum, mouth, pharynx, larynx and esophagus.
- Cigar smoking can cause oral, esophageal, laryngeal and lung cancers.
- Second-hand smoke is the third leading cause of death, and is of special concern for pregnant women, children, and persons with asthma and other chronic diseases.
- Smoking causes approximately 17 percent of all deaths in Minnesota each year (6,400 deaths in 1995 alone).
- Smoking costs Minnesota approximately \$1.3 billion annually, the

equivalent of approximately \$3.36 for every pack of cigarettes sold, or \$277 per Minnesota resident per year.

- More children under 18 are starting to smoke on a daily basis than any other age group.
- Approximately 17,000 Minnesota children become new daily smokers each year.
- After increasing sharply during the mid-90s, monthly use among ninth graders has stabilized at 30 percent. Use among high school seniors increased throughout the '90s and remains higher than the national average (42 percent vs. 35 percent).
- Smoking among adults is virtually stable at 20 percent.
- Per capita tobacco use in Minnesota has declined only 7 percent since 1990, markedly less than the 15 percent decline nationwide.

## Solutions

- Evidence from the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and from other states, indicates that comprehensive tobacco-prevention programs can reduce teen smoking.
- Resources available through the Tobacco Prevention and Local Public Health Endowment will enable Minnesota to wage an effective program.
- Minnesota Commissioner of Health Jan Malcolm has appointed Tobacco Endowment Advisors to advise her on the development of a long-term, multi-faceted program. The advisors include representatives from state and local government, public health, health care, and community organizations.
- The charge of the Tobacco Endowment Advisors is to: Advise the Commissioner of Health on initial steps in implementing a comprehensive tobacco use reduction and prevention plan, pursuant to the tobacco settlement fund endowments.
- The work of this group will be coordinated with the Minnesota Partners for Action Against Tobacco and other tobacco prevention activities.
- The legally mandated goal of the endowment is to reduce teen smoking by 30 percent by 2005.

### How the endowment will be allocated

The money in the Tobacco Prevention and Local Public Health Endowment (\$590 million) is divided among the following three activities:

#### 1. Statewide tobacco prevention

Grants will be awarded for projects aimed at preventing tobacco use among young people. Activities may include coordinated state and local public awareness campaigns and special projects aimed at high-risk populations.

*Principal amount:*

\$395 million (or 67 percent of \$590 million).

*Annual projected interest available:*

**Fiscal  
Year**

**Approximate Amount**

2000	\$4.6 million
2001	\$9.2 million
2002	\$13.8 million
2003	\$19.4 million
2004-2015	\$20 million

## 2. Local tobacco prevention

Grants will be awarded for local and regional tobacco prevention projects that are coordinated with strategies aimed at reducing other high-risk behaviors among young people. Activities may include school-based tobacco prevention programs aimed at youth and parents; local public awareness and education projects; and local initiatives aimed at reducing high-risk behaviors associated with tobacco use.

*Principal amount:*

\$97 million (or 16.5 percent of \$590 million)

*Annual projected interest:*

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Approximate Amount</b>
2000	\$1.1 million
2001	\$2.3 million
2002	\$3.4 million
2003	\$4.8 million
2004-2015	\$5 million

## 3. Local public health

Grants will be allocated to community health boards for local health promotion/protection activities aimed at reducing high-risk behaviors – other than tobacco use—among young people.

*Principal amount:*

\$97 million (or 16.5 percent of \$590 million)

*Annual projected interest:*

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Approximate Amount</b>
2001	\$2.3 million
2002	\$3.4 million
2003	\$4.8 million
2004-2015	\$5 million

For questions about this page, please contact the Tobacco Prevention and Control Section: [tpcweb@health.state.mn.us](mailto:tpcweb@health.state.mn.us)

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