
Tobacco Program Funding History

March 2008

Tobacco Facts

Tobacco-related diseases kill about 7,500 Washington residents every year.

Smoking causes 90 percent of lung cancer deaths, 45 percent of both heart disease deaths and stroke deaths in people younger than 65, 33 percent of all cancer deaths, and 10 percent of newborn deaths.

Tobacco-related medical costs in Washington exceed \$1.5 billion annually.

The tobacco industry spends approximately \$160 million annually in Washington promoting its products and generating new smokers.

Washington State's anti-tobacco efforts began more than a decade ago, when the Department of Health, in partnership with the American Cancer Society, participated in the American Stop Smoking Intervention Study (ASSIST). The National Cancer Institute funded the demonstration project in 17 states. The goal was to organize and teach coalitions to advocate for changes in public and private tobacco policies as a means of reducing tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke.

The Department of Health funded coalitions in Clark, King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Spokane counties, and the statewide Tobacco Free Washington Coalition to plan and implement a variety of strategies to encourage stronger tobacco prevention and control policies.

Late 1990s

Washington State, along with other states, sued the tobacco companies for illegally targeting and marketing to minors and violating Washington's consumer protection and antitrust laws. Washington's Attorney General Christine Gregoire was the lead negotiator in the final settlement with the companies.

1998

The November 1998 Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) was scheduled to provide \$4.5 billion over 25 years for Washington State to help rectify the harm caused by tobacco. The settlement also imposed major restrictions on the industry's advertising and marketing machine, and curtailed its ability to fight anti-tobacco legislation.

1999

The 1999 Washington State Legislature set aside \$100 million of the state's initial \$320 million share of the national tobacco settlement to create a Tobacco Prevention and Control Account. At the same time, the Legislature asked the Department of Health to develop a sustainable, long-term, and comprehensive tobacco control program. The department appointed a team of public health experts, the Tobacco Prevention and Control Council, to recommend the most effective measures to prevent kids from becoming addicted to tobacco, to help adults quit, and to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke.

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The council's *Tobacco Prevention and Control Plan for Washington State* recommended a \$26.24 million annual plan, which, if fully funded over the course of 10 years, would prevent an estimated 84,000 premature deaths and save more than \$3 billion in future medical costs.

Toll-Free Tobacco Quit Line Numbers

1-800-QUIT-NOW

1-877-2 NO FUME

1-877-777-6534
(Hearing impaired)

Find out more about
secondhand smoke:
SmokeFreeWashington.com

Find out more about the
Tobacco Quit Line at:
www.QuitLine.com

Visit our youth Web site at:
www.NoStankYou.com

For more information on
tobacco prevention:
www.doh.wa.gov/tobacco

In 1999, the Department of Health set up the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program with a small, centralized state staff and contracts for its partners in counties, educational service districts, and tribes.

2000-2001

The Legislature appropriated \$15 million to the Department of Health for tobacco prevention and control during the program's first year (July 2000-June 2001). For the second year (July 2001-June 2002), the Legislature increased funding to \$17.5 million.

In November 2001, Washington voters approved Initiative 773, raising the tax on a pack of cigarettes by 60 cents to \$1.425, the highest of any state in the nation at the time. The Legislature dedicated portions of the tax to healthcare programs and to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Account.

2002

The Legislature approved a budget of \$26.2 million for the program's third year (July 2002-June 2003). The budget included \$8.75 million from the tobacco tax increase mandated by Initiative 773. Additional funding from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (\$1.4 million), American Legacy Foundation (\$900,000), and fees paid by tobacco retailers (\$900,000) brought each year's budget to \$29.4 million.

2003-2007

Program funding remains relatively stable. Washington State ranks 10th nationally in per capita spending on tobacco prevention and control, and supports the program at more than 80 percent of the Centers for Disease Control's recommended funding level.

A comprehensive approach to fighting tobacco use

Research shows that tobacco prevention programs must conduct a comprehensive set of strategies to be effective. The Washington State Tobacco Prevention and Control Program provides services to help people quit, conducts public awareness and media campaigns, supports local programs in communities and schools, supports enforcement of policies to keep kids from accessing tobacco products, and evaluates the effectiveness of program activities.