



Increase Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Funding in Texas

Tobacco prevention is greatly underfunded in Texas.

Tobacco use remains Texas' leading cause of preventable death, disease, and disability.

Smoking causes about 20% of all cancers and about 30% of all cancer deaths in the United States.¹ Smoking during pregnancy increases the risk of negative health outcomes, including birth defects, low birthweight, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).²

Texas ranks 48th among the 50 states and Washington, DC in tobacco prevention funding.³ The amount Texas spends is only 2.3% of the \$264 million spending recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for tobacco prevention and cessation. Simultaneously, the tobacco industry spends \$635.5 million on marketing in Texas.

Prevention Pays Off

For every dollar spent on tobacco prevention, states can reduce tobacco-related health care spending and hospitalizations by \$55.⁴

- States with sustained, well-funded prevention programs have reduced youth smoking rates by at least half.⁵
- Unfortunately, prevention programs are not reaching women and adolescents.

Smoking Costs Texans⁶

- Texas spends \$10.29 billion each year for direct health care costs caused by smoking.
- Medicaid costs for smoking equal \$2.10 billion each year. If smoking was reduced in Texas, Medicaid could reinvest money in other vital programs.

WAYS TO COMBAT TOBACCO USE

1

Increase funds for tobacco prevention and enforcement

2

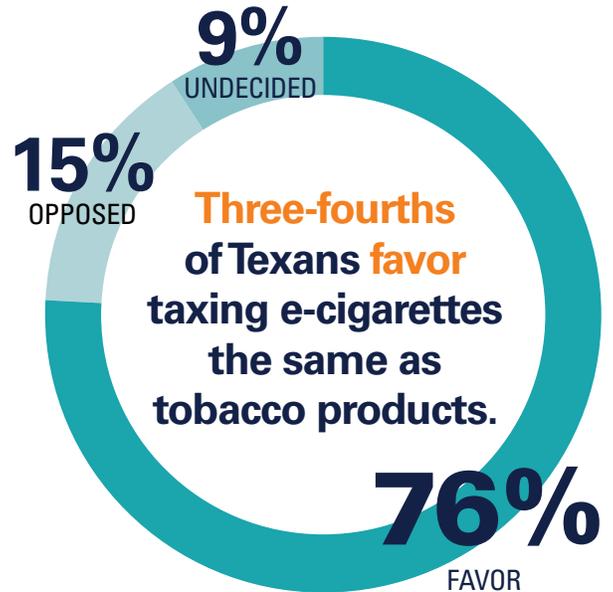
Close the e-cigarette loophole to create tax parity with cigarettes

3

Increase the cigarette tax to more than double the current rate

The result: At least \$624.34 million in new annual revenue for Texas, which would:

- ✓ Ensure access to the Texas Tobacco Quitline
- ✓ Increase youth access to prevention programs



E-cigarette products operate in an excise tax loophole that allows these dangerous products to be taxed the same as dental floss or candy.⁷

The Texas Public Health Coalition Recommends:

1. **Protect, restore, and increase Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) funding for tobacco prevention and enforcement of tobacco laws.**
2. **Close the excise tax loophole on e-cigarettes and tax at parity with all cigarettes**, including components such as tanks, mods, and liquids.
3. **Raise the cigarette tax** by \$1.50 per pack, from \$1.41 to \$2.91.
4. **Enhance enforcement of the Tobacco 21 law** prohibiting sales of tobacco and e-cigarette products to underage Texans, including increased compliance checks on retailers and enhanced penalties.
5. **Pass a statewide smoke-free air law.**
6. **Oppose any attempts by the tobacco industry to weaken tobacco laws.**

1 <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/risk-prevention/tobacco/health-risks-of-tobacco/health-risks-of-smoking-tobacco.html>

2 <https://www.marchofdimes.org/find-support/topics/pregnancy/smoking-during-pregnancy>

3 <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/what-we-do/us/statereport/texas>

4 <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/stateandcommunity/state-fact-sheets/index.htm#TX>

5 <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/what-we-do/us/prevention-cessation>

6 <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/texas>

7 <https://www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/86R/handouts/C4902020072900001/9808abd9-7d25-4236-835d-1e89b49f4832.PDF>



The Texas Public Health Coalition is a coalition of health professional organizations and health-focused organizations dedicated to disease prevention and health promotion.

401 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701 ■ www.texmed.org/PublicHealthCoalition ■ knowledge@texmed.org

MEMBERS

ALS Association	Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine	Texas Health Institute
Alzheimer's Association	Texas Academy of Family Physicians	Texas Hospital Association
American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network	Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics	Texas Medical Association
American Heart Association	Texas Academy of Physician Assistants	Texas Nurses Association
American Lung Association	Texas Association of City & County Health Officials	Texas Osteopathic Medical Association
Children at Risk	Texas Association of Community Health Centers	Texas Pediatric Society
Children's Hospital Association of Texas	Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians Services	Texas Physicians for Social Responsibility
Harris County Public Health	Texas Dental Association	Texas Renal Coalition
Healthier Texas		Texas School Nurses Organization
March of Dimes		The Immunization Partnership
Methodist Healthcare Ministries		United Ways of Texas

RESOURCES

BEXAR COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS
CPAN & TCHAT

MICHAEL & SUSAN DELL CENTER FOR
HEALTHY LIVING
PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHY TEXAS
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH
SERVICES

TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
TEXAS TOBACCO CONTROL COALITION
TEXAS VETERINARY MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION
TRAVIS COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

UT AUSTIN TOBACCO RESEARCH AND
EVALUATION TEAM
UT MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER
ZERO PROSTATE CANCER