### Morbidity and Mortality Related to Primary and Secondary Exposure to Tobacco Use

#### In Brief

- More deaths are caused each year by tobacco use than by all deaths from human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), illegal drug use, alcohol use, motor vehicle injuries, suicides, and murders combined.\(^1,2\)

- Smoking cigarettes, pipes, or cigars increases the risk of dying from cancers of the lung, esophagus, larynx, and oral cavity.\(^3,4\)

- Smokeless tobacco is a known cause of human cancer.\(^5\) In addition, the nicotine in smokeless tobacco may increase the risk for sudden death from a condition where the heart does not beat properly (ventricular arrhythmias) and, as a result, the heart pumps little or no blood to the body’s organs.\(^5\)

#### Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States.\(^3\)

#### Cigarettes and Death

Cigarette smoking causes about 1 of every 5 deaths in the United States each year.\(^1,6\) Cigarette smoking is estimated to cause the following:\(^1\)

- 443,000 deaths annually (including deaths from secondhand smoke)
- 49,400 deaths per year from secondhand smoke exposure
- 269,655 deaths annually among men
- 173,940 deaths annually among women

Cigarette use causes premature death:

- On average, adults who smoke cigarettes die 14 years earlier than nonsmokers.\(^7\)
- Based on current cigarette smoking patterns, an estimated 25 million Americans who are alive today will die prematurely from smoking-related illnesses, including 5 million people younger than 18 years of age.\(^8\)
Secondhand Smoke and Death

Exposure to secondhand smoke—sometimes called environmental tobacco smoke—causes nearly 50,000 deaths each year among adults in the United States:¹

- Secondhand smoke causes 3,400 annual deaths from lung cancer.¹

- Secondhand smoke causes 46,000 annual deaths from heart disease.¹⁹,¹⁰

Adapted from cdc.gov/tobacco

For full references please [click here](#)