

# SMOKE★FREE TEXAS

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## 2014 U.S. SURGEON GENERAL'S REPORT\*: THE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF SMOKING – 50 YEARS OF PROGRESS

The 2014 *Surgeon General's Report on the Consequences of Smoking* documents lifesaving progress in reducing smoking rates and tobacco consumption over the past 50 years while emphasizing the critical importance of evidence-based tobacco control interventions – increased tobacco taxes, comprehensive smoke-free policies, and fully funded prevention and cessation programs – necessary to end the tobacco epidemic. Below are some key findings of the report:

- Most of the 20 million smoking-related deaths since 1964 have been adults with a history of smoking; however, 2.5 million of those deaths have been among nonsmokers who died from diseases caused by exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Tobacco will cause an estimated 480,000 deaths this year in the U.S.
- At least 70 of the chemicals in cigarette smoke are known carcinogens. Levels of some of these chemicals have increased as manufacturing processes have changed.
- Secondhand smoke exposure is now known to cause strokes in nonsmokers.
- The report correctly identifies that most tobacco-related death and disease are caused by cigarettes, cigars and other combusted tobacco products.
- The report adds colorectal and liver cancers to the list of cancers associated with smoking, bringing the total number to 15.
- One out of three cancer deaths is caused by smoking.
- This report concludes that smoking causes colorectal and liver cancer and increases the failure rate of treatment for all cancers.

**All Texans deserve to breathe clean indoor air!**

**Sources:**

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. **The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General** – Executive Summary. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014.