



State Cigarette Taxes

Increasing taxes on cigarettes is a winning solution for states. Higher taxes deter children from starting to smoke and motivate adults to quit. These taxes also raise revenue that can and should be used to fund tobacco prevention and cessation programs. Forty-seven states, and the District of Columbia have raised their cigarette taxes since January 1, 2002, many of them more than once. See the map below for each state's cigarette tax rate as of September 15, 2014.

Action/Key Facts on Cigarette Taxes:

- In 2014, only one state, Vermont, has approved legislation increasing its cigarette tax. In 2013, three states – Massachusetts, Minnesota and Oregon increased their cigarette taxes.
- The nationwide average state cigarette tax currently stands at \$1.53 per pack.
- New York has the highest cigarette tax in the country at \$4.35 per pack, while Missouri has the lowest at \$0.17 per pack.
- New York is the only state with a cigarette tax rate at or over \$4.00 per pack; Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Washington have tax rates at or over \$3.00 per pack.

Why Increasing Tobacco Taxes Are Important for Public Health:

- Studies have shown that a 10 percent increase in the price of cigarettes reduces consumption by about 7 percent for youth and 4 percent for adults.¹
- The 2014 Surgeon General's report on smoking, *the Health Consequences of Smoking – 50 Years of Progress* concluded that increases in the price of tobacco products, including from excise tax increases, prevent people from starting to use tobacco products, promote quitting, and reduce the prevalence and intensity of tobacco use among youth and adults.²
- A 2007 report released by the prestigious Institute of Medicine entitled *Ending the Tobacco Problem: A Blueprint for the Nation* recommended increasing taxes as an effective tool to reduce tobacco use. Specific recommendations included increasing cigarette taxes to at least \$2.00 per pack, and indexing cigarette taxes to inflation.³
- A 2002 study in the journal *Tobacco Control* examined tobacco industry documents related to cigarette tax increases, and found that the industry was well aware of the potent effect that increases in price have on reducing both youth and adult consumption of cigarettes.⁴

Map of Current State Excise Taxes on Cigarettes

Last Updated: September 15, 2014



Note: The federal excise tax on cigarettes is \$1.01 per pack.

For more information on state cigarette taxes, check out the American Lung Association's State Legislated Actions on Tobacco Issues (SLATI), available online at <http://slati.lung.org>.

Last updated: September 15, 2014; updated as information changes or annually.

¹ Tauras JA, O'Malley PM, Johnston LD, "Effects of Price and Access Laws on Teenage Smoking Initiation: A National Longitudinal Analysis," Bridging the Gap Research, ImpacTeen, April 2001. Available at: <http://www.impacteen.org/generalarea/PDFs/AccessLaws.pdf>.

² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014.

³ IOM (Institute of Medicine). 2007. *Ending the tobacco problem: A blueprint for the nation*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

⁴ Chaloupka FJ, Cummings KM, Marley CP, Horan JK. Tax, price and cigarette smoking: evidence from the tobacco documents and implications for tobacco company marketing strategies. *Tob Control*. 2002 Mar; 11 (Suppl 1): I62-72.