



CIGARETTE TAX POSITION STATEMENT

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OTPC 2016 & 2017 PRIMARY POLICY OBJECTIVE

PUBLIC HEALTH BURDEN OF SMOKING

- Smoking remains the number one preventable cause of disease and death in the United States.¹
 - 22.2% of Oklahoma adults currently smoke cigarettes.²
 - 7,500 Oklahomans die each year as a result of cigarette smoking.⁶
- A \$1.50 per pack cigarette tax increase in Oklahoma will:³
 - Prevent 28,200 youth from becoming adult smokers, based on all youth under 18 alive today.
 - Motivate 30,400 adult smokers to quit in the first year.
 - Prevent 16,700 premature smoking caused deaths.
 - Reduce smoking-complicated pregnancies and births by 4,900 in first 5 years.
- Raising cigarette taxes always increases revenue and always reduces smoking.⁴
 - The Institute of Medicine and the Surgeon General agree that increasing the price of tobacco products is the single most effective way to reduce tobacco consumption.
 - Increase annual revenue by approximately \$257 million in the first year.⁵
- Oklahoma's annual health care costs caused by smoking are \$1.62 billion, including \$264 million in Medicaid.⁶
 - First 5-Year Medicaid program savings to the state \$3.92 million.³
 - Long-term health care cost savings from adult and youth smoking declines equal \$1.22 billion.³
 - Smokers cost 3 times as much as non-smokers.⁷

CIGARETTE TAX INCREASE IMPACT

- While the total packs of cigarettes sold declined from 356.8 million in 2004 (year before the last Oklahoma cigarette tax increase) to 309.4 million in FY2006, state revenue still increased from \$55.2 million to \$197 million over the same time period.⁸
- Research clearly indicates increasing the price of cigarettes is the single most effective strategy to reduce smoking.⁹
- The cigarette tax increase would improve Oklahoma cigarette tax ranking from 37th to 11th among 50 states.¹⁰
- 62% of Oklahoma registered voters surveyed in 2015 supported a \$1.50 cigarette tax increase.¹¹

CALL TO ACTION

- Sign your partnership, coalition or organization to the [Oklahoma Turning Point Council's Cigarette Tax Letter of Support](#)
- Educate and advocate for policies supporting tobacco prevention and public health
- [Contact your state elected officials](#) to voice your support for a cigarette tax increase
- [Join OTPC](#) and create partnerships in your community and state to support effective tobacco prevention policy
- [Register to vote!](#)

¹ The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General, 2014, available at <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/consumer-guide.pdf>

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data. Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2015. Retrieved from <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/bfss/>

³ Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. New Revenues, Public Health Benefit and Cost Savings from a \$1.50 Cigarette Tax Increase in Oklahoma. Updated 1.09.17, available at: <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0386.pdf>

⁴ Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. State Tobacco Taxes. Updated 11.28.16, available at: http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/what_we_do/state_local/taxes/

⁵ Oklahoma Tax Commission, revenue projections from a \$1.50 cigarette tax increase in Oklahoma. Updated February 2017.

⁶ Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The Toll of Tobacco in Oklahoma. Updated 11.1.16, available at: https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/facts_issues/toll_us/oklahoma

⁷ Palmer J.T. & Pettit C. T. (2015). Oklahoma state innovation model delivery of high-cost services. Retrieved from <https://www.ok.gov/health2/documents/High-Cost%20Delivery%20Services.pdf>

⁸ Orzechowski and Walker -The Tax Burden on Tobacco – Historical Compilation, Volume 49 2014, page 350. Available at http://www.taxadmin.org/fta/tobacco/papers/tax_burden_2014.pdf. Accessed March 15, 2017.

⁹ Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. State Tobacco Tax Increases: Explanations and Sources for Projections of New Revenues and Benefits. Updated 02.14.17, available at: <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0281.pdf>

¹⁰ Chaloupa F. J. (2016). The economics of tobacco taxation in Oklahoma. Available by request.

¹¹ Cole, Hargrave & Snodgrass and Associates. September 8-14, 2015.