

Secondhand Smoke Hidden Cost: The Economic Burden in South Carolina

Prevalence & Mortality

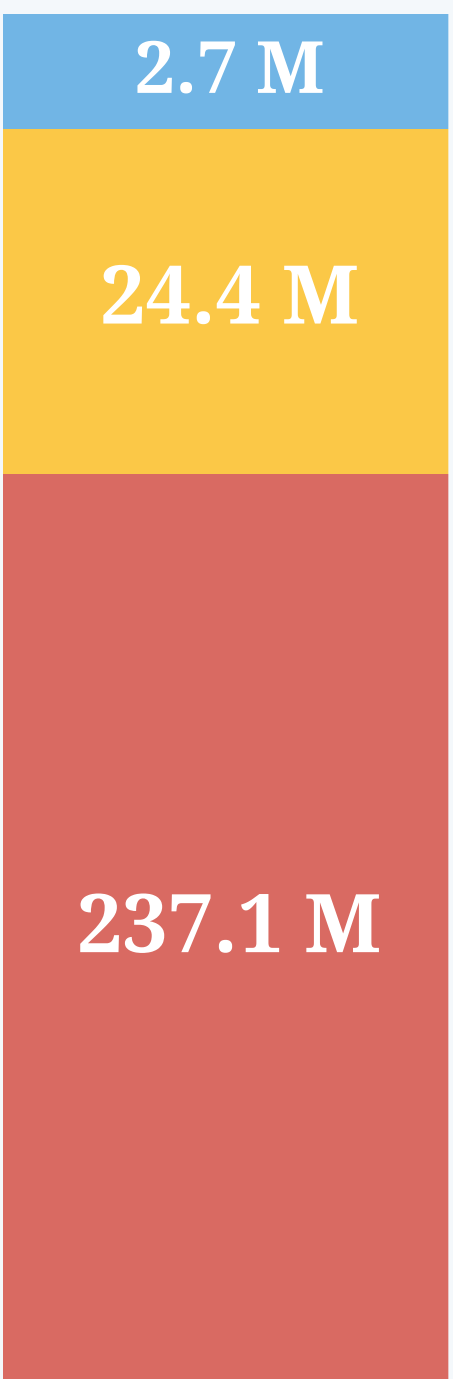
- Exposure to secondhand smoke (SHS) is an established cause of heart disease, stroke, and lung cancer.
- In South Carolina, approximately 500,000 adults who do not smoke cigarettes are exposed to SHS at home or work.
- In South Carolina, estimates indicate that SHS causes approximately 371 deaths per year among people who do not smoke cigarettes.

Economic Costs

Medical Care Costs to Treat SHS-Caused Disease

Estimated Health Care Expenditures

-  Lung Cancer
-  Stroke
-  Heart Disease





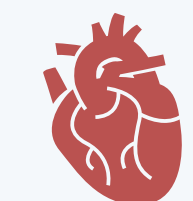
- In addition to the deaths caused by SHS exposure, treating patients with SHS-caused diseases costs South Carolina nearly...

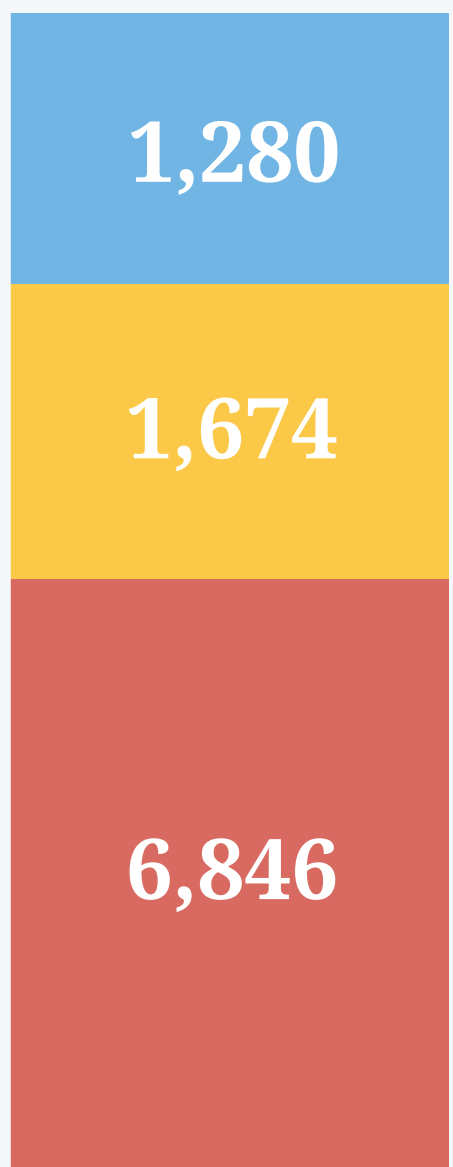
\$264 million (per year)



Economic Costs of Disability and Premature Mortality

Years of Life Lost

-  Lung Cancer
-  Stroke
-  Heart Disease



- SHS exposure causes disabilities, shortens lifespans, and negatively impacts the economy.
- The value of disability-adjusted life years amounts to...

Totaling 9,800 years of life lost per year!

\$393 million (per year)



- In South Carolina, medical care for SHS-caused disease and premature death cost an estimated...

\$690 million (per year)

What Can Be Done?

- We need to **educate the public** on maintaining smoke-free homes and cars and **increase the number of comprehensive smoke-free policies in public spaces** of cities and towns.
- **These actions will reduce SHS exposure, save lives, and benefit the state's economy.**