

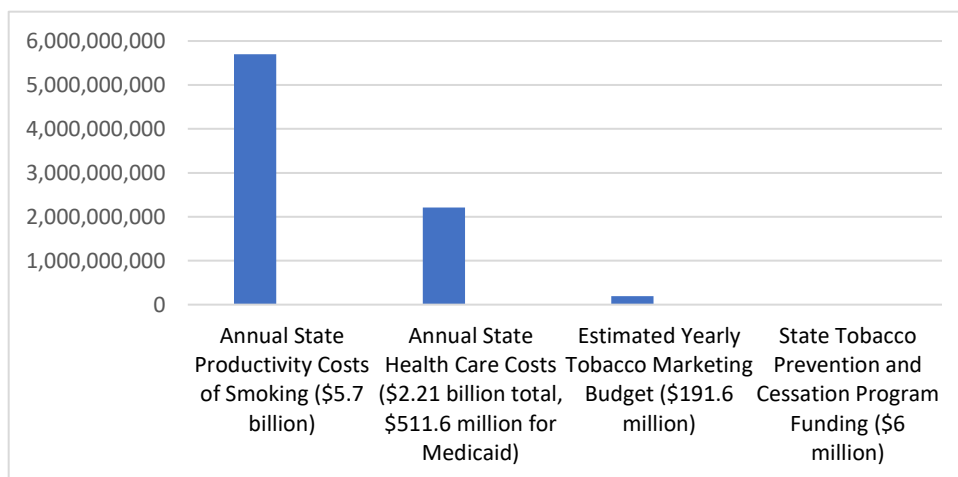
## Federal Cuts Threaten the Health of South Carolina

The drastic cuts to the Department of Health and Human Services' workforce and the elimination of CDC's Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) will have devastating consequences for the nation's health. OSH plays a critical role in preventing youth tobacco use and helping people who use tobacco to quit.

### Health & Economic Costs of Tobacco to South Carolina

Tobacco is an addictive and deadly product. Smoking harms nearly every organ in the body<sup>i</sup> and remains the number one cause of preventable death. In South Carolina:

- 12.1% of adults smoke cigarettes<sup>ii</sup> and 20% of high school students use tobacco products.<sup>iii</sup>
- 32.1% of cancer deaths are caused by smoking.<sup>iv</sup>
- Smoking is estimated to cost South Carolina \$2.21 billion in direct health care costs, including \$511.6 million in Medicaid costs annually.<sup>v</sup> Additionally, smoking costs the state \$5.7 billion in productivity costs annually.
- These costs far outpace the \$187.2 million in annual tobacco revenue the state receives from tobacco settlement payments and tobacco taxes.
- On average, South Carolina residents pay \$954 per household in state and federal taxes from smoking-caused government expenditures, whether they smoke or not.



**A well-funded fact-based tobacco control program is needed to counteract the \$191.6. million per year that tobacco companies are spending to market their deadly and addictive products in South Carolina.<sup>vi</sup>**

### Recommendation

OSH plays a critical role in preventing youth tobacco use and helping adults quit. Ending this program will increase the number of people who become ill and die from a tobacco-caused disease. By eliminating CDC OSH funding:

- South Carolina would lose \$1.7 million dollars.
- 100 more kids would grow up to become addicted to deadly tobacco products.
- South Carolina would incur an increase of \$1.6 million dollars in future healthcare expenditures.

ACS CAN calls on lawmakers in South Carolina to increase the state funding for tobacco control programming in order to make up for the severe federal funding cut of \$1.7 million.

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<sup>i</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Health Effects of Cigarette Smoking. Updated April 28, 2020.

[https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\\_statistics/fact\\_sheets/health\\_effects/effects\\_cig\\_smoking/](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/health_effects/effects_cig_smoking/)

<sup>ii</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2022 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. <https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/brfssprevalence/index.html>

<sup>iii</sup> Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The Toll of Tobacco in South Carolina. Updated 08.16.24. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/southcarolina>

<sup>iv</sup> Islami, F, Marlow, EC, Zhao, J, et al. Person-years of life lost and lost earnings from cigarette smoking-attributable cancer deaths, United States, 2019. *Int J Cancer*. 2022; 151( 12): 2095- 2106. doi:[10.1002/ijc.34217](https://doi.org/10.1002/ijc.34217)

<sup>v</sup> Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The Toll of Tobacco in South Carolina. Updated 08.16.24. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/southcarolina>

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