

## Federal Update: U.S. Surgeon General's Report January 17, 2014

This morning, the U.S. Surgeon General released a new report on smoking and health which confirms smoking is deadlier and more addictive than it was 50 years ago, causing 87 percent of all lung cancer deaths and 61 percent of all lung disease deaths. It has been 50 years since the landmark 1964 Surgeon General's report introduced the dangers of tobacco and linked smoking to lung cancer and heart disease, and yet tobacco is still the leading cause of preventable death in our country. This new report finds:



- Smoking now kills 480,000 Americans each year
- The cost to our economy in healthcare costs and lost productivity could be as much as \$333 billion each year
- 5.6 million U.S. youth, alive today, will die prematurely as adults due to smoking
- Women are now as likely as men to die from lung cancer and COPD

In the 50 years since the first Surgeon General report, eight million lives were saved because of tobacco control efforts, including 800,000 cancer deaths. Although there have been significant improvements during the past 50 years, 20 million lives have still been lost to tobacco during this time, proving that there is still more to be done. Therefore, the American Lung Association is renewing its commitment to eliminate tobacco caused death and disease.

To see the executive summary and full Surgeon General's report, click [here](#). For state specific statistics, click [here](#) (page 693).

To see the press release on this issue from the American Lung Association, click [here](#).

*Center for Tobacco Policy & Organizing, January 17, 2014*

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