



Canadian Cancer Society
Société canadienne
du cancer

Cost of Tobacco Use – Key Observations

- The total number of deaths in Saskatchewan (2005) attributable to active smoking was estimated at 1,534, with 910 males and 624 females dying from cancer, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases as a result.
- Second-hand smoke was responsible for an additional 27 deaths in 2005 due to lung cancer and ischemic heart disease.
- Deaths due to smoking in Saskatchewan thus totaled 1,561 in 2005. This means 18% of a total 8,850 deaths in Saskatchewan in 2005 were attributable to tobacco use, or approximately one in every five deaths in the province.
- The total direct annual health care cost attributable to smoking in Saskatchewan is estimated at \$167.6 million (\$2008).
- Annual indirect cost due to tobacco use is estimated at \$535.23 million (\$2008), reflecting productivity losses due to long-term and short-term disability and premature death.
- The value of losses due to fires due to smoking is estimated at \$1.9 million (\$2008).
- Prevention and research costs ranged from \$2.4 to \$3.9 million (\$2008).
- The total annual cost to employers of hiring smokers is estimated at \$413 million (\$2008). This includes absentee costs and on-the-job productivity losses due to unauthorized smoke breaks.
- The total cost of tobacco use in Saskatchewan is estimated at \$1,080 million (\$2008), or \$1,063 per capita. Indirect costs accounted for the greatest proportion of the total at \$535.2 million (50%), followed by employer costs of \$373 million (34%), direct healthcare costs \$167.6 million (16%), direct prevention and research costs of \$2.4 million (0.22%), and cost of damage due to fires of \$1.9 million (0.18%).
- \$516.6 million (\$2008) or 48% of the total cost of tobacco use in Saskatchewan is paid for by society, more than 76% of whom are non-smokers.
- There are enormous potential benefits to investing in tobacco reduction, including lives saved, better long-term health outcomes and cost savings. A decline of 25% in tobacco use prevalence from 20% to 15% was estimated to save Saskatchewan approximately \$69 per-capita (\$2009), or a total of \$70 million (\$2008) not including employer cost-savings.