

Massachusetts Tobacco Control Program

Reducing the health and economic burden of tobacco use

The problem:

- Tobacco use is the #1 cause of preventable death and disability in the Commonwealth.
- More than 9,000 Massachusetts residents die every year from the effects of tobacco – one person every hour of every day.
- Thousands more are disabled by tobacco use, suffering with chronic illness and pain.
- Each year, health care expenses due to smoking costs Massachusetts citizens \$3.9 billion. The Massachusetts economy loses another \$1.5 billion in lost productivity.

How the Massachusetts Tobacco Control Program is helping:

- **We help smokers quit** through a toll-free quitline (1-800-Try-To-Stop), interactive websites, media campaigns, free nicotine patch promotions, and culturally-appropriate materials in many languages.
- **We prevent youth from starting to smoke** through education, supporting youth civic engagement, and funding local programs to educate retailers and enforce laws restricting youth access to tobacco products.
- **We protect children and adults from secondhand smoke** by maintaining a statewide information and complaint line for the statewide smoke-free workplace law and conducting statewide education initiatives about the harms of secondhand smoke.
- **We use resources wisely.** We use research and evaluation to design and evaluate our programs, track trends, and design programs to help people who suffer most from tobacco use.

Progress

- Massachusetts' smoking rate has fallen to 16.4% in 2007, the 4th lowest rate in the nation.
- Illegal sales of tobacco were cut in half from FY 2006 to FY 2007.
- The youth smoking rate has fallen from 20.5% in 2005 to 17.7% in 2007.
- The Commonwealth's smoke-free workplace law has been effective at protecting Massachusetts residents from secondhand smoke; it has a 98% compliance rate.

For more information, visit www.makesmokinghistory.org and www.mass.gov/dph/mtcp



Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Tobacco Control Program
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Make smoking history.