Tobacco use costs Georgia an estimated more than $5 billion every year.

The burden of tobacco-related illness among adults in Georgia is high.

DEATHS

- Over 10,000 Georgians die every year from tobacco-related illnesses – that is one out of every six deaths in adult Georgians.
- More adult males (6,500) than adult females (3,900) die from tobacco-related illnesses.
- Among Georgia adults ages 35 and older, cancer accounts for 42% of all deaths due to smoking, while cardiovascular diseases and respiratory diseases account for 32% and 26% of all deaths due to smoking, respectively.
- Adult smokers lose an average of 16 years of life compared to adult non-smokers.

LUNG CANCER MORTALITY

- Lung cancer accounts for 75% of all smoking-related cancer deaths in Georgia.
- Lung cancer is the principal cause of cancer deaths for males and females.

BEHAVIORS: YOUTH

- Approximately 23,000 (6%) middle school students and 81,000 (19%) high school students in Georgia smoke cigarettes.
  - Among middle school students, two in 26 boys and one in 20 girls are smokers.
  - Among high school students, one in five boys and one in six girls are smokers.
- Approximately 18,000 (70%) middle school smokers and 41,000 (56%) high school smokers live with a smoker.
- Approximately 97,000 (29%) middle school non-smokers and 110,000 (31%) high school non-smokers live with a smoker.
- Approximately 1,400 (6%) middle school smokers and 24,000 (30%) high school smokers buy their cigarettes at gas stations or convenience stores.

Youth cigarette smokers are defined as those who have smoked at least one cigarette in the last 30 days.
BEHAVIORS: ADULTS

• Approximately 1.3 million (19%) adults in Georgia smoke cigarettes.
  • 21% of adult males and 18% of adult females are smokers.
  • Adults with less than a high school education are more likely than adults with a high school education or above to smoke cigarettes.
  • Counties in the northwest, south central, and southeast regions of the state have the highest adult smoking prevalence.

POLICY

• A majority (81%) of adult Georgians do not allow smoking anywhere inside their homes.
• Adults with at least a high school education are less likely to allow smoking in their homes than adults who did not graduate high school.
• A majority (85%) of working adults indicate their worksite does not allow smoking at work.
• Almost all (99%) public schools in Georgia have policies prohibiting tobacco use.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

• $1.8 billion in healthcare costs among adults 18 years and older.
• $3.4 billion in lost productivity costs among adults 35 years and older.

Adult cigarette smokers are defined as those who have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and are currently smoking.

Data sources:
3. 2006 Georgia Student Health Education Profile Survey (http://health.state.ga.us/epi/cdiee/policy.asp).
6. Georgia Comprehensive Cancer Registry.

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Visit http://www.health.state.ga.us/epi/cdiee/tobaccouse.asp for more information about tobacco use in Georgia.
Visit http://health.state.ga.us/programs/tobacco/index.asp for more information about the Georgia Tobacco Use Prevention Program.