

THE COALITION VOICE

A newsletter of the
Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition
DECEMBER 2004

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POSITIVE IMPACT OF INCREASED CIGARETTE TAX DRAWS ATTENTION IN MANY STATE LEGISLATURES

A cigarette tax increase is sound public policy, according to the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and has positive implications for the public health and state coffers. Since 2002, 32 state legislatures and the District of Columbia have heeded the growing body of research and enacted or increased their cigarette tax.

A \$1 per pack increase in the Texas cigarette tax is now being encouraged by Texans Investing in Healthy Families (a coalition which includes the Texas PTA, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, Lance Armstrong Foundation and the Trust for a Smoke-Free Texas).

Tobacco has a devastating effect on the health of Texans. Tobacco causes the most cancer deaths – 1 in every 3 – in Texas.

Here are some research data about smoking and cigarette taxes that you may want to share in the coming months.

- ▶ A \$1 per pack cigarette tax increase will convince 179,000 adult smokers to quit, decrease youth smoking by 19.8 %, save 135,600 Texans from smoking-related deaths and prevent 301,000 Texas children from ever starting to smoke, according to the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.
- ▶ Smoking costs Texans \$10 billion a year in health care costs and lost productivity costs. (American Cancer Society, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids).
- ▶ A cigarette tax increase will produce new and reliable state revenue. After adjustments for reduced consumption and tax avoidance, a \$1 per pack increase would generate \$1.5 billion per biennium in additional revenue (Texas Comptroller for Public Accounts). In each of the 17 states that raised tax rates between 1995 and 2000, state revenue increased even as cigarette sales dropped.
- ▶ Texas will spend just 35 cents annually per person for tobacco prevention in FY 2004-2005. This is a drop from the \$12.5 million Texas spent the previous year when it ranked 39th among 50 states. (Texas State Budget Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids).
- ▶ Tobacco prevention campaigns for school children work. If five cents of each \$1 cigarette tax increase was invested in tobacco cessation programs for Texas children, the impact would expand into future generations. With Texas' first round of tobacco settlement payments, the Texas Department of Health initiated pilot programs in 14 east Texas sites, including Port Arthur, which had the most comprehensive program of all the sites. In Port Arthur, smoking rates of sixth graders were reduced by nearly 40 percent in FY 2000. With Texas' second round of tobacco settlement payments, a comprehensive program was provided in four counties, including Harris County, resulting in a 30 percent decrease in tobacco use among youth in grades 6-12 (Texas Department of Health.)

For more information and fact sheets about the impact of a cigarette tax increase in Texas, visit www.cancer.org.

CONFERENCES

January 28-29

Texas School Health Association Conference, Plano. Sponsored by the Nurse Oncology Education Program. For more info visit www.noeptexas.org or call 800.515.6770. NOEP is funded by the Texas Cancer Council.

February 5 Saturday

The ASH/SABCS Review 2005: Recent advances in the treatment of hematological malignancies and breast cancer as presented at the 2004 American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting & the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, Fairmont Hotel in Dallas. A continuing education program presented by National Oncology Alliance, the Physician Oncology Education Program, and the Georgia Society of Clinical Oncology. POEP Exhibit. Register at www.noainc.com. POEP is funded by the Texas Cancer Council.

WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS

January 14

The Silent Cancers, Lufkin. Sponsored by the Nurse Oncology Education Program. For more info visit www.noeptexas.org or call 800.515.6770

February 4

Pain and Palliative Care, Alvin. Sponsored by the Nurse Oncology Education Program. For more info visit www.noeptexas.org or call 800.515.6770.

February 19

Cancer Symptom Management, Corpus Christi. Sponsored by the Nurse Oncology Education Program. For more info visit www.noeptexas.org or call 800.515.6770.

February 26

Annual Cancer Update, San Antonio. Sponsored by the Nurse Oncology Education Program. For more info visit www.noeptexas.org or call 800.515.6770.

March 18

Pain, Nutrition and Oral Care, Midland. Sponsored by the Nurse Oncology Education Program. For more info visit www.noeptexas.org or call 800.515.6770.

March TBA

Genetics and Cancer, Bedford. Sponsored by the Nurse Oncology Education Program. For more info visit www.noeptexas.org or call 800.515.6770.

M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Training Opportunities – “Making Cancer History”

Unique training programs for nurses, nurse practitioners, primary care physicians, physician assistants, and other healthcare professionals who want to develop or enhance their skills in cancer prevention, screening, and early detection. Learn to integrate these life saving strategies into your practice. Education programs in colposcopy, breast and female cancer screening, GU and male cancer screening, skin cancer screening. Clinical practice and clinical rotations. CNE/CME. For details, copy this site to your Internet browser. www.mdanderson.org/pepid or call Leah Jones at 731-792-3427.

NEWS FROM COALITION PARTNERS

COALITION INCLUDED IN EVALUATION PRESENTATION

Heather Becker, Evaluator for the Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, participated in a paper session entitled Evaluating Comprehensive Cancer Control Efforts: Examples and Experiences from Four States at the American Evaluation Association this November. Her paper focused on how evaluation has contributed to Texas' efforts to build local cancer control efforts.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NIH grant (application due January 24, 2005) focuses on obesity in children and adolescents

Qualified scientific investigators are invited to submit applications designed to develop and test intervention approaches for the prevention or management of overweight in children and adolescents through age 20 years. The focus is on utilizing specific sites where children and adolescents can be reached through innovative overweight prevention or weight management interventions. Eight awards are expected for an estimated total program funding of \$5 million.

Full Announcement and eligibility info: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DK-04-013.html>

Comprehensive Minority Institution/Cancer Center Partnership

The National Cancer Institute is accepting applications for partnerships between Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) and NCI designated Cancer Centers. The purpose of the grant is to provide opportunities for collaboration among MSIs and the Cancer Centers in order to develop stronger national cancer programs aimed at understanding the reasons behind the significant cancer disparities and impact on minority populations. For more information go to <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-CA-05-021.html>.

Letter of Intent deadline is January 22, 2005.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CORNER

Practical information for busy local cancer control program, planning and service providers. Got a great resource to share? Tell us about it.

NEW SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMOKERS KICKING THE HABIT

Help for Smokers

The National Cancer Institute has 13 new smoking cessation fact sheets. This series addresses common barriers faced when trying to quit smoking such as handling cravings or being around other smokers without smoking. To view or download fact sheets go to

<http://cis.nci.nih.gov/asp/FactSheetPub/AlphaSubList.asp?alpha=101>.

New Smoking Quitline

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson recently announced a new national smoking quitline number, 1-800-QUIT-NOW. The toll free number will be the access point to the National Network of Tobacco Cessation Quitlines. Callers will be routed to their state quitline. Callers from states that do not have a quitline will be routed to The National Cancer Institute's Quitline. View the press release at

<http://www.cancer.gov/newscenter/pressreleases/SmokeFreeQuitline>.

<p>LOOKING AHEAD Cancer-Related Health Observances Calendar Source: http://www.healthfinder.gov</p> <p>JANUARY will be....</p> <p><i>Cervical Cancer Screening Month</i></p>
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Thank you for your interest in the Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition. Please direct your newsletter ideas to Susan Nenny, Project Coordinator, snenney@tcc.state.tx.us or call 512-371-7585. The Coalition Voice is produced by the Coalition Support Project which is funded by the Texas Cancer Council.