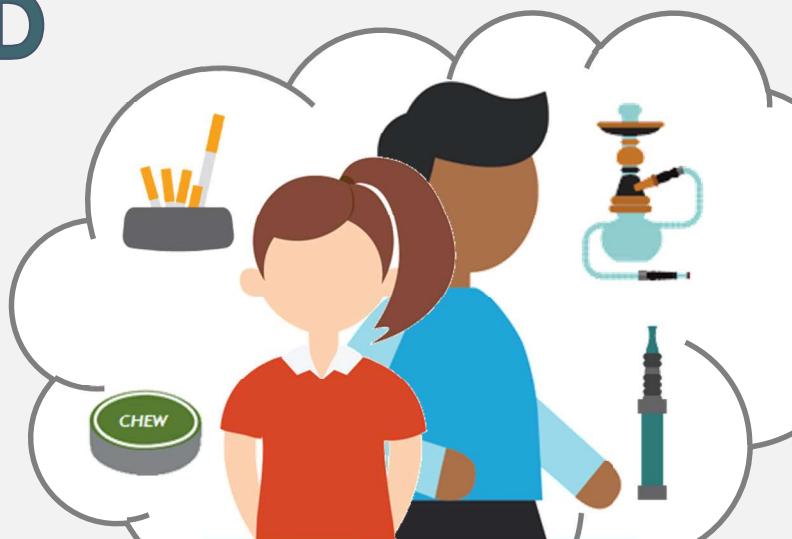


# EXTINGUISHING THE TOBACCO EPIDEMIC *in* RHODE ISLAND

## THE PROBLEM

Cigarette smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death and disability in the United States, despite a significant decline in the number of people who smoke. Over 16 million Americans have at least one disease caused by smoking. This amounts to \$170 billion in direct medical costs that could be saved every year if we could prevent youth from starting to smoke and help every person who smokes to quit.



## RHODE ISLAND KEY FACTS

**\$1.3M**

Was received  
from CDC for  
tobacco  
prevention and  
control activities  
in FY 2020

In 2019, **33.3%** of Rhode Island high school **youth** reported currently using **any tobacco product**, including e-cigarettes. Among Rhode Island high school **youth**, **4.2%** reported currently smoking **cigarettes**.

**13.3%**

Of adults smoked  
cigarettes in 2019

**1,800**

Adults die from  
smoking-related  
illnesses each  
year

**\$640M**

Was spent on  
healthcare costs  
due to smoking in  
2009

## PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO TOBACCO USE IN RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island has a history of strong tobacco control programs. The state was among the first to adopt a comprehensive smoke-free law that prohibits smoking in all indoor areas of workplaces, restaurants, and bars. Because inexpensive and flavored tobacco products appeal to youth, Providence adopted new ordinances in 2012 to address these issues. Enactment of these new ordinances prohibits tobacco retailers from accepting or redeeming any coupons for tobacco products and prohibits the sale of any flavored tobacco products other than menthol. Similar policies have also been adopted in Central Falls and Woonsocket. Today, Rhode Island has the lowest reported youth smoking rate in the country at 4.8%.

RHODE ISLAND

CURRENT AS OF MARCH 2021



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

[www.cdc.gov/tobacco](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco)

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## CDC's ROLE IN ADVANCING STATE TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAMS

Rhode Island is one of 50 states plus DC that receives funding and technical support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support comprehensive tobacco control efforts and quitlines. The Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) is the lead federal agency for comprehensive tobacco prevention and control. For decades, OSH has led public health efforts to prevent young people from using tobacco and to help all tobacco users to quit.

## CDC's TIPS FROM FORMER SMOKERS® (Tips®) CAMPAIGN HELPS RHODE ISLAND SMOKERS QUIT SMOKING

Despite significant progress, tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death and disease in the US. The good news is that 7 out of 10 smokers want to quit smoking. That is why since 2012 CDC has been educating the public about the consequences of smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke and encouraging smokers to quit through a federally funded, national tobacco education campaign, *Tips From Former Smokers®*. The campaign features former smokers suffering from the real consequences of smoking.

The *Tips®* campaign connects smokers with resources to help them quit, including a quitline number (1-800-QUIT-NOW) which routes callers to their state quitline. The Rhode Island quitline provides free cessation services, including counseling and medication. These services are effective in improving health outcomes and reducing healthcare costs.



"I was thinking about relapsing today and the new commercials came on. It changed my mind real fast. You don't understand the power of these commercials until you have made the decision to quit. Terrie Hall makes me cry every time . . . that could easily be me."

— Justin: January 2016

Incoming calls to the Rhode Island state quitline increased by an average **77%** during the 2020 *Tips®* campaign. The Rhode Island state quitline received a total of **783** calls from March 23<sup>rd</sup> – October 8<sup>th</sup> during the 2020 *Tips®* campaign.

## RHODE ISLAND TOBACCO PREVENTION & CONTROL PROGRAMS REDUCE HEALTHCARE COSTS

Tobacco prevention and control activities are a public health "best buy." Evidence-based, statewide tobacco control programs that are comprehensive, sustained, and accountable have been shown to reduce the number of people who smoke, as well as tobacco-related diseases and deaths. For every dollar spent on tobacco prevention, states can reduce tobacco-related health care expenditures and hospitalizations by up to \$55. The longer and more states invest, the larger the reductions in youth and adult smoking. A comprehensive statewide tobacco control program includes efforts to:



**1** Prevent initiation of tobacco use especially among youth and young adults



**2** Promote cessation and assist tobacco users to quit



**3** Protect people from secondhand smoke

For more information on tobacco prevention and control, visit [cdc.gov/tobacco](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco).

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