

New Mexico's adult smoking rate dropped 4.5-percentage points, from 23.8% in 2001 to 19.3% in 2008, a statistically significant decline.<sup>1</sup> The following estimates show the benefits and savings to New Mexico resulting from the decline in adult smoking, as supported by state investments in tobacco prevention.

### Fewer Smokers

**Fewer adults who are current smokers in 2008<sup>1</sup>: 66,600**

**Ever smokers age 30+ in NM who have quit smoking<sup>2</sup>: 55.3%**

### Public Health Benefits<sup>3</sup>

**Today's adults saved from dying prematurely from smoking: 14,600**

**Thousands fewer smoking-affected births and smoking-caused heart attacks, strokes, cancers**

### Monetary Benefits (Reduced Public, Private & Individual Smoking-Caused Costs)

	<b>Savings over five years after smokers quit<sup>4,5</sup></b>	<b>Savings over lifetime of smokers who quit<sup>4,5</sup></b>
<b>Estimated reduction in health costs in New Mexico is projected at:</b>	<b>\$160 million</b>	<b>\$633 million</b>
<b>Estimated reduction in Medicaid costs in NM is projected at:</b>	<b>\$19 million</b>	<b>\$76 million</b>

Twelve percent of smoking-caused health care expenditures in New Mexico are paid by its Medicaid program.<sup>5</sup> Over their lifetimes, the adults who have quit smoking since 2001 will have saved New Mexico \$76 million in future Medicaid expenditures<sup>5</sup> — that's about \$22 million from State Medicaid and \$54 million from Federal Medicaid.<sup>6</sup>

#### Sources and Explanations

<sup>1</sup>Adult tobacco prevalence comes from the NM Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). NM adult population (ages 18+ yrs) estimates used are from the 2008 US Census Bureau, American Factfinder. The 2008 NM adult population of 1,481,906 multiplied by 4.5% = 66,685, which has been rounded down to 66,600.

<sup>2</sup>Giovino GA et al. *Cigarette Smoking Prevalence and Policies in the 50 States*. Buffalo, NY: Univ at Buffalo, State Univ of NY, 2009.

<sup>3</sup> Formula provided by Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids that 21.8% of adults who quit would have been predicted to have died if they had continued smoking. Therefore, 21.8% of 66,685 is 14,602, which rounded down is 14,600 adults saved from dying prematurely. See: [www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0328.pdf](http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0328.pdf) and [www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0329.pdf](http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0329.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Adult smokers who quit have lifetime healthcare costs roughly \$9,500 less than the average smoker's (2004 dollars). Therefore, 66,685 fewer smokers multiplied by \$9,500—\$633,507,500 in reduced future health costs in NM, which has been rounded down to \$633 million. For 5-year cost savings, number of fewer smokers is multiplied by \$2,400 (i.e., 66,685 x \$2,400 = \$160,044,000, rounded down to \$160 million). Source: Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids factsheet, *Health Costs of Smokers vs. Former Smokers vs. Non-Smokers And Related Savings From Quitting*, <http://tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0327.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup>Roughly 12% of smoking-caused healthcare expenditures in NM are paid by its Medicaid program. Therefore, 12% of \$633,507,500 is \$76,020,900, which has been rounded down to \$76 million. Source: Armour, BS, Finkelstein EA, Fiebelkorn IC. State-level Medicaid expenditures attributable to smoking. *Prev Chronic Dis* 2009;6(3), [www.cdc.gov/pccd/issues/2009/jul/08\\_0153.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/pccd/issues/2009/jul/08_0153.htm)

<sup>6</sup>In NM, about 29% of Medicaid costs are incurred by the State and 71% by the Federal government. Source: [www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0329.pdf](http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0329.pdf) and Miller L et al. State estimates of Medicaid expenditures attributable to cigarette smoking, FY1993, *Public Health Reports* 113:140-151, March/April 1998.