

HOW MUCH DOES TOBACCO COST EMPLOYERS?

Employers bear direct and indirect costs as a result of employees' tobacco use, including:

- Higher employee absenteeism
- Decreased job productivity
- Increased early retirement due to ill health
- Higher annual health care costs for smokers
- Higher life insurance costs;
- Higher maintenance and cleaning costs

Determining an employer's smoking-related costs is difficult because many factors and variables can influence the calculation. Based on the CDC's estimate that each smoker costs employers \$3,400 per year, the following formula may provide a useful starting point in determining the cost of smoking to your business.

Step 1:

Multiply the total number of employees times the estimated percentage of employees who smoke. To calculate the percentage of employees who smoke, enter either the percentage of adult South Salt Lakers who smoke (23.1%) or the percentage of smokers within your occupation (from the occupation table at the top of this page). The resulting number provides an estimate of the total number of smokers in your workplace.

Step 2:

Multiply the total number of smokers times the CDC estimate of the cost (\$3,400) per smoker:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{_____ Total number of employees} \\ & \times \text{_____ Estimated \% of employees who smoke (24.6\% or \% from occupation table)} \\ & = \text{_____ Total number of smokers} \\ & \times \text{_____ \$3,400 cost per smoker} \\ & = \text{_____ Employer's estimated cost of smoking per year} \end{aligned}$$

U.S. Smoking Rates by Occupation

Transportation and material moving	46%
Construction laborers	42%
Construction trades	40%
Laborers, except construction	39%
Fabricators, assemblers, inspectors	37%
Health service	35%
Sales and retail workers	27%
Executives, administrators, managers	24%
Secretaries	21%
Teachers	12%

South Salt Lake
**Coalition for
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www.ssldrugfree.org

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