

TOBACCO IS NO FRIEND OF BUSINESS

In the past 20 years, California has saved \$86 billion in health care costs due to fewer Californians using tobacco.¹

Despite the gains California has made over the past years in reducing tobacco use, the tobacco industry continues to aggressively market its dangerous products to Californians on social media, in newspapers and magazines, and at the retail counter.

It's no secret that Big Tobacco deliberately targets kids, low-income neighborhoods, and people of color with their highly addictive products; **but the financial impacts on businesses and employers isn't often talked about.**

KEY POINTS:

- The economic burden of smoking in California in 2009 amounted to **\$18.1 billion**, the most recent data regarding the costs of smoking.
- Lost productivity due to smoking-related illness costs **\$1.4 billion** every year.²
- Direct healthcare costs of smoking in California amount to **\$9.8 billion**.²
- Smokers, on average, **miss more than six days of work per year** due to tobacco use-related illness, including acute and chronic conditions. By comparison, nonsmokers miss only three days of work per year, on average.³



The good news is that businesses can reduce their costs from things like health insurance and lost worker productivity by supporting efforts to reduce the impact of tobacco in our communities that improve overall health outcomes. When employees quit smoking and worksites are smoke-free, employee health improves, employer costs go down, and productivity increases.

It's time for businesses to stand with the community against the devastating impacts from tobacco and the industry that promotes its use.

¹ Lightwood, J. M., Dinno, A., Glantz, S. A. (2008). *Effect of the California Tobacco Control Program on Personal Health Care Expenditures*. PLOS Medicine 5(8), e178. doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.0050178

² Max W, Sung H-Y, Shi Y, & Stark B. (2014). *The Cost of Smoking in California*, 2009. San Francisco, CA: Institute for Health & Aging, University of California, San Francisco. Retrieved from: www.trdrp.org/files/cost-smoking-ca-final-report.pdf

³ Halpern, M. T., Shiklar, R., Rentz, A. M., & Khan, Z. M. (2001). Impact of smoking status on workplace absenteeism and productivity. *Tobacco control*, 10(3), 233–238. doi.org/10.1136/tc.10.3.233

