

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

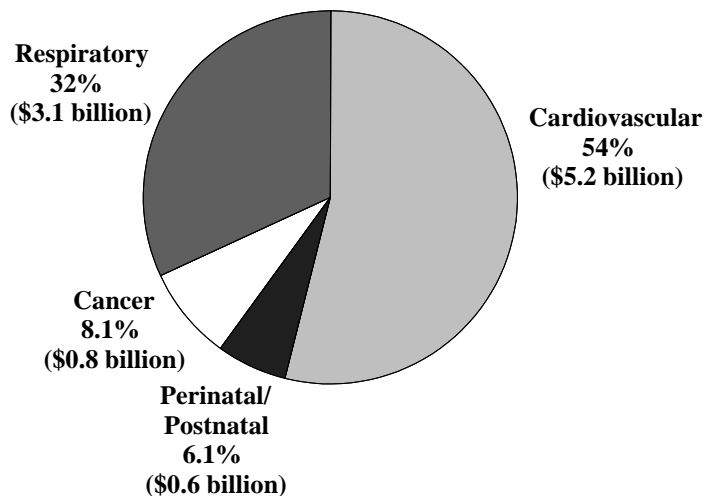
University of Maryland, College Park

Environmental Tobacco Smoke Exposure Costs Nearly \$10 Billion per Year

Environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) exposure costs nearly \$10 billion per year, according to a recent economic analysis of the costs of excess medical care, mortality, and morbidity related to ETS exposure in the United States. Slightly more than one-half (54%; \$5.2 billion) of these costs stem from cardiovascular effects, such as coronary heart disease, while nearly one-third (32%; 3.1 billion) are incurred from respiratory problems, such as asthma and chronic pulmonary disease. The authors note that “while the effects of ETS are subtle in comparison to active smoking, the number of people exposed is so large that the costs are substantial” (p. 2). They also express concern that “young children of smoking mothers continue to be exposed at a higher level than any other group of nonsmokers, and the reductions in exposure for this segment of the population are small” (p. 26).

Estimated Annual Cost of Environmental Tobacco Smoke Exposure in the United States

(Total Cost=an estimated \$9.7 billion)



NOTE: ETS is defined as the exposure of a nonsmoker to the combustion products of cigarettes and other tobacco products.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Behan DF, Eriksen MP, Lin Y. *Economic Effects of Environmental Tobacco Smoke*, Society of Actuaries, 2005. Available online at <http://www.soa.org/ccm/content/areas-of-practice/life-insurance/research/economic-effects-of-environmental-tobacco-smoke-SOA>.

•• 301-405-9770 (voice) •• 301-403-8342 (fax) •• CESAR@cesar.umd.edu •• www.cesar.umd.edu ••
CESAR FAX may be copied without permission. Please cite CESAR as the source.

The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention funded this project under grant BJAG 2005-1206. All points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of any State agency.