



## Save Money, Save Lives: Facts About Commercial Tobacco-free Workplaces

### STRATEGIES TO INCREASE YOUR BOTTOM LINE

- ✓ Prohibit commercial tobacco use on company grounds – indoors, outdoors, parking lots, & in company-owned vehicles
- ✓ Allow use of FDA-approved nicotine replacement therapies
- ✓ Remove cost barriers by providing full coverage (100%) for commercial tobacco cessation, medication, & counseling
- ✓ The Affordable Care Act gives employers greater flexibility to help employees quit
- ✓ Provide information about free resources to assist with quitting, such as Quit Now Montana
- ✓ Connect with your local Tobacco Education Specialist for guidance

### CONTACT

**Montana Tobacco Use  
Prevention Program**  
(866) 787-5247  
infotobaccofree@mt.gov  
tobaccofree.mt.gov

### COMMERCIAL TOBACCO HAS A PRICE

In Montana, 1,600 adults die each year from smoking. The state of Montana's annual healthcare costs *directly* caused by smoking are \$511 million with smoking-caused production losses estimated at \$898.6 million.<sup>1</sup>

### BENEFITS OF ADOPTING COMMERCIAL TOBACCO-FREE WORKPLACE POLICIES

Commercial tobacco-free workplaces create a healthier, more productive & enjoyable environment for everyone.

Comprehensive policies that prohibit the use of all forms commercial tobacco and nicotine products can:

- Increase productivity and decrease medical expenses (save an average of \$4,056 annually per employee using commercial tobacco)<sup>2</sup>
- Lower absenteeism rates
- Lower health insurance premiums (tobacco users can have more and longer hospital stays)
- Decrease Worker's Compensation costs (\$2,189 for smokers vs. \$176 for nonsmokers)<sup>3</sup>
- Save on maintenance & cleanup costs (cigarette butts are the most littered item in the U.S.)<sup>4</sup>

### LOST PRODUCTION

In a 2003 survey of nearly 29,000 U.S. workers, smoking was a leading cause of worker lost production time – greater than alcohol abuse or family emergencies. Quitting smoking can greatly improve a worker's productivity.<sup>5</sup>

### SOURCES

1. Campaign for Tobacco-free Kids. "The Toll of Tobacco in Montana." (July. 2024). <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/montana>. Accessed 08/24.
2. Berman, M., Crane, R., Seiber, E., & Munur, M. (2014). Estimating the cost of a smoking employee. *Tob Control*, 23(5), 428-433. doi:10.1136/tobaccocontrol-2012-050888.
3. The Association of Health Risks With Workers Compensation Costs. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*. 43(6): 534-541, June 2001.
4. Truth Initiative. "Why are cigarette butts the most littered item on earth?". (Aug. 2018). <https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/harmful-effects-tobacco/why-are-cigarette-butts-most-littered-item-earth>. Accessed 08/24.
5. Stewart, WF, Ricci, JA, Chee, E, Morganstein, D. Lost productivity work time costs from health conditions in the United States: Results from the American Productivity Audit. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine* 45(12):1234-1246, 2003.