

# Reasons to Stop Using Tobacco



## Physical, Mental, and Financial Costs of Tobacco Use

### Physical

Cigarettes contain a mix of over 7,000 chemicals, many that cause cancer, heart disease, and lung disease. Other tobacco products, such as e-cigarettes, hookah and smokeless tobacco, contain some of these same chemicals.



#### LUNGS

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Smoking injures the airways and sacs of the lungs, which can lead to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), including emphysema and chronic bronchitis.

Smoking during pregnancy causes reduced lung function in infants.



#### MOUTH

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Tobacco users have more periodontal or gum disease than nonsmokers.

Smoking or using chew or dip can cause oral (mouth) and throat cancer, as well as cancer of the larynx and esophagus.



#### BRAIN

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Smoking cigarettes and using other tobacco products is one of the major preventable causes of strokes.



#### HEART

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Smoking stresses the heart by hardening the arteries, increasing blood pressure, and increasing risk of coronary heart disease.



#### EYES

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Smoking increases the chances of developing cataracts two to three times more than a nonsmoker.

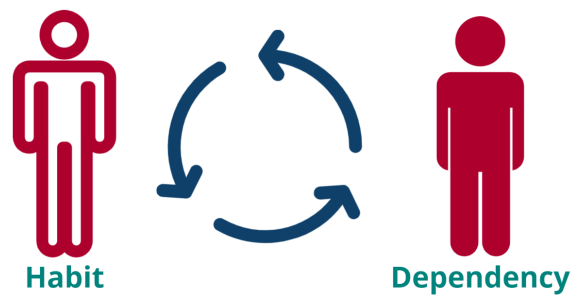
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## Mental

Nicotine is a habit-forming drug that draws you into a mental and physical partnership with tobacco products. The more you use, the more addicted you become. As you become more addicted, you develop habits that reinforce the role of cigarettes/tobacco in your daily routine.

Some smokers feel that smoking relaxes them. Actually, nicotine is a stimulant that offers a short-term effect. The effect wears off after about 20 minutes and the smoker then needs another pick-me-up.



**The more you use → the more addicted you become → the more you develop a habit that reinforces nicotine use in your daily routine.**

## Financial

Have you ever thought about what money you would be saving if you weren't spending it on tobacco? Here is a look at what you could be saving over time if you spend five dollars on a pack per day:

- In a week, you will save \$35—that is dinner out with friends
- In one month, you will save \$150—that is a new pair of running shoes
- In one year, you will save \$1,825—that is a vacation
- In 10 years, you will save \$27,323—that is a new car
- In 20 years, you will save \$72,987—that is college tuition

**Check out the My Quitting Savings worksheet and find out how much YOU could save!**

**Source:** Chemicals in Tobacco Products and Your Health, U.S. Food & Drug Administration, 2020, <https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/health-effects-tobacco-use/chemicals-tobacco-products-and-your-health>

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