

## Executive Summary

Tobacco use is a health burden for those who use it, as well as an economic burden for the communities that support them. Key findings of *Updated: The Burden of Tobacco in Alabama, 2025* are featured below. Unless noted otherwise, the tobacco use data and years of potential life lost findings refer to 2023 annual estimates, while health impact and economic impact findings refer to 2024 annual estimates.

### Tobacco Use

- 14.2 percent of adults in Alabama are current cigarette smokers.
- 16.8 percent of males smoke
- 11.9 percent of females smoke
- Alabama has the 12<sup>th</sup> highest adult smoking prevalence rate in the nation.
- 10.1 percent of mothers reported smoking during pregnancy.
- From 1996 to 2023 adult smoking prevalence fell on average only 0.3 percent per year.
- 5.7 percent of high school students are current cigarette smokers
- 9.5 percent of adults and 17.5% of youth use electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS)

### Health Impact of Tobacco

- **6,248 deaths** in Alabama were attributable to smoking-related causes.
  - 3,365 deaths due to cardiovascular disease
  - 944 deaths due to cancer
  - 832 deaths due to respiratory disease
  - 336 deaths due to diabetes
  - 771 deaths due to indirect tobacco-related causes (secondhand smoke, smoking-related fires, prenatal deaths)
- 246,647 years of potential life were lost due to smoking-attributable premature death.

### Economic Impact of Tobacco

- \$7.88 billion in excess personal medical care expenditures were attributable to smoking.
- \$2.65 billion in productivity losses were estimated as a result of smoking-attributable premature death.
- \$2.38 billion in productivity losses were estimated as a result of smoking-attributable illnesses.
- \$277.9 million in economic costs were attributed to personal medical costs and productivity losses associated with secondhand smoke.
- Over **\$13 billion** in economic costs was the estimated total annual economic impact of smoking in Alabama.