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Current Intelligence Bulletin XX

Promoting Health and Preventing Disease and Injury through
Workplace Tobacco Policies

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#### **Foreword**

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Current Intelligence Bulletins (CIBs) are issued by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to disseminate new scientific information about occupational hazards. A CIB may draw attention to a formerly unrecognized hazard, report new data on a known hazard, or disseminate information about hazard control.

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Public health efforts to prevent disease caused by tobacco use have been underway for the past half century, but more remains to be done to achieve a society free of tobacco-related death and disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), of which NIOSH is a component, has recently proclaimed a "Winnable Battle" against tobacco use. NIOSH marks this 50th anniversary year of the first Surgeon General's Report on the health consequences of smoking by disseminating this CIB XX, Promoting Health and Preventing Disease and Injury through Workplace Tobacco Policies.

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Workers who use tobacco products or who are employed in workplaces where smoking is allowed are exposed to carcinogenic and other toxic components of tobacco and tobacco smoke. Tobacco smoking is becoming less frequent and smoke-free and tobacco-free workplace policies are reducing exposure to secondhand smoke (SHS) and motivating smokers to quit, but millions of workers still smoke and smoking is still permitted in many workplaces. Other forms of tobacco also represent a health hazard to workers who use them. In addition to direct adverse effects of tobacco on the health of workers who use tobacco products or are exposed to SHS, tobacco products used in the workplace and away from work can worsen the hazardous effects of other workplace exposures.

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The content of this CIB addresses tobacco use among workers; exposure to secondhand smoke in workplaces; occupational health and safety concerns relating to tobacco use by workers; existing occupational safety and health regulations and recommendations prohibiting or limiting tobacco use in the workplace; hazards of worker exposure to SHS in the workplace; and interventions aimed at eliminating or reducing these hazards. The CIB concludes with NIOSH recommendations relating to tobacco use in places of work and tobacco use by workers.

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NIOSH urges all employers to assure that all their workplaces are made and maintained tobacco-free and that all their employees who continue to use tobacco products are encouraged to guit and provided with cessation support. Doing so will help fulfill employers' fundamental obligation to provide safe workplaces and can improve the health and well-being of their workers.

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38 John Howard, M.D. 39 Director 40 National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Centers for Disease Control and Prevention -

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## **Executive Summary**

Introduction

Various NIOSH criteria documents on individual hazardous industrial agents, from asbestos [NIOSH 1972] through hexavalent chromium [NIOSH 2013a], have included specific recommendations relating to tobacco use along with other recommendations to eliminate or reduce occupational safety and health risks. In addition, NIOSH has published two Current Intelligence Bulletins focused entirely on the hazards of tobacco use. CIB 31, Adverse Health Effects of Smoking and the Occupational Environment, outlined how smoking interacts with other workplace exposures to increase risk of disease and injury among workers [NIOSH 1979]. In that CIB, NIOSH recommended that smoking be curtailed in workplaces where those other hazards are present and that worker exposure to those other occupational hazards be controlled. CIB 54, Environmental Tobacco Smoke in the Workplace: Lung Cancer and Other Health Effects, presented a determination by NIOSH that secondhand smoke (SHS) causes cancer and cardiovascular disease [NIOSH 1991]. In that CIB, NIOSH recommended that workplace exposures to SHS be reduced to the lowest feasible concentration, and emphasized that elimination of tobacco smoking from the workplace is the best way to achieve that. This current CIB XX, Promoting Health and Preventing Disease and Injury through Workplace Tobacco Policies, augments those two earlier NIOSH CIBs. Consistent with the philosophy embodied in its recently launched Total Worker Health™ Program [NIOSH 2013b], this CIB is aimed not just at preventing occupational injury and illness related to tobacco use, but also at improving the general health and well-being of workers.

Smoking and Other Tobacco Use by Workers; Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS) at Work

Millions of workers use tobacco products. Cigarette smoking prevalence in the United States has been reduced by more than 50% among all U.S. adults since publication of the first Surgeon General's report on the health consequences of smoking—from about 42% in 1965 to about 18% in 2012 [CDC 2014a; DHHS 2014]. Overall, smoking among workers has similarly declined, but smoking rates among blue-collar workers have been shown to be consistently higher than among white-collar workers. Among blue-collar workers, those exposed to higher levels of workplace dust and chemical hazards are more likely to be smokers [Chin et al. 2012]. Also, on average, blue-collar smokers smoke more heavily than white-collar smokers [Fujishiro et al. 2012].

For the 2004–2011 period, smoking prevalence varied widely by industry, ranging from about 10% in *education services* to more than 30% in *construction, mining*, and *accommodation and food services*. Smoking prevalence varies even more by occupation, ranging from 2% among *religious workers* to 50% among *construction trades helpers* [NIOSH 2014]. Overall, only about 3% of all workers use smokeless tobacco in the form of chewing tobacco and snuff, but smokeless tobacco use exceeds 10% among workers in *construction and extraction* jobs and stands at nearly 20% among workers in the *mining* industry [NIOSH 2014]. The use of smokeless tobacco by individuals who also smoke tobacco products, or "dual use," is one way some workers maintain their nicotine habit in settings where smoking is prohibited (e.g., in an office where indoor smoking is prohibited or in coal mines where smoking can cause explosions). Over 4% of U.S. workers who smoke cigarettes also use smokeless tobacco [CDC 2014b; NIOSH 2014].

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Mandatory and voluntary efforts over recent decades have either eliminated or substantially decreased exposure to SHS in many U.S. workplaces. But millions of non-smoking workers not covered by these policies are still exposed to SHS in their workplace. A recent survey found that 20.4% of nonsmoking U.S. workers experienced exposure to SHS art work on at least one day during the preceding week [King et al. 2014]. Another survey conducted at about the same time estimated that 10.4% of nonsmoking adult U.S. workers experienced exposure to SHS at work on at least two days per week during the past year) [Calvert et al. 2013]. Such exposure varied by industry, ranging from 4% for *finance and insurance* to nearly 28% for *mining*, and by occupation, ranging from 2% for *education*, *training*, *and library* occupations to nearly 29% for *construction and extraction* occupations.

Health and Safety Consequences of Tobacco Use

Beginning with the first Surgeon General's report on smoking and health, numerous reports from the Surgeon General and other health authorities have documented serious health consequences of smoking tobacco, exposure to secondhand smoke (SHS), and use of smokeless tobacco. Smokeless tobacco is known to cause several types of cancer, primarily in the mouth and throat. Smoking is a known cause of the top five health conditions impacting the U.S. population—heart disease, cancers, cerebrovascular disease, chronic lower respiratory disease, and unintentional injuries [DHHS 2004, 2014]. Smoking also causes a variety of other diseases, as well as adverse reproductive effects [DHHS 2004, 2014]. Not including premature deaths due to SHS exposure (see next paragraph), smoking is responsible for over 439,000 premature deaths among U.S. smokers and former smokers [DHHS 2014]. The risk of most adverse health outcomes caused by smoking is related to the intensity and duration of tobacco smoking, but no level of tobacco smoking is risk free [DHHS 2010b, 2014].

Likewise, there is no risk-free level of exposure to SHS [DHHS 2006, 2014]. SHS exposure causes over 41,000 deaths each year among U.S. non-smokers [DHHS 2014]. Among exposed adults, there is strong evidence of a causal relationship between exposure to SHS and a number of adverse health effects, including lung cancer, heart disease (including heart attacks), stroke, exacerbation of asthma, and reduced birth weight of offspring (due to SHS exposure of nonsmoking pregnant women) [DHHS 2006, 2014; IARC 2009; IOM 2010; Henneberger et al. 2011]. In addition, there is suggestive evidence that exposure to SHS causes a range of other health effects among adults, including other cancers (breast cancer, nasal cancer), asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and premature delivery of babies born to women exposed to SHS [DHHS 2006, 2014; IARC 2009].

Interaction of Tobacco Use with Other Occupational Hazards

Tobacco use (most commonly, smoking) can interact in several ways with other hazards present in some workplaces to worsen their impact on workers' health [NIOSH 1979; DHEW 1979b; DHHS 1985]. Specific toxic chemicals associated with work processes in some workplaces are also present in tobacco products and/or tobacco smoke, thus increasing exposure to those specific agents among tobacco-using workers and workers exposed to SHS. Tobacco products can also become contaminated by toxic industrial agents in the user's workplace, through contact of the tobacco products with unwashed hands or contaminated surfaces and through deposition of airborne contaminants onto the tobacco products. Subsequent use

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of the contaminated tobacco products, whether at or away from the workplace, can facilitate entry of these toxic agents into the body. Another type of interaction involves the transformation of industrial chemicals into more harmful agents by the heat of burning tobacco when tobacco is smoked. Smoking and exposure to a toxic agent found in the workplace can each have independent but similar adverse effects on a worker's body. The overall effect of these combined exposures can be additive (i.e., amounting to the sum of each independent effect) or, in some cases, synergistic (i.e., amounting to an effect greater than the sum of each independent effect). One of the best known examples of such an effect is the synergistic effects of smoking and asbestos exposure on lung cancer [Markowitz et al. 2013]. Occupational injuries and traumatic fatalities can result from interaction of flammable or explosive hazards present in many workplaces with tobacco smoking as an ignition source. Even without causing explosion or fire, any form of tobacco use may result in traumatic injury if the worker operating a vehicle or industrial machinery is distracted by tobacco use (e.g., opening, lighting, extinguishing, or disposing of a tobacco product).

#### Prevention

Both health and economic considerations can motivate individuals to quit tobacco use. Workers who smoke can protect their own health by quitting tobacco use and can protect their co-workers' health by not smoking in the workplace. Smokers who quit stand to benefit financially. Substantial savings can be realized by those who quit. Among other savings, they no longer incur direct costs associated with consumer purchases of tobacco products and related materials, and generally pay lower life and health and insurance premiums and less out-of-pocket costs for health care.

Legally determined employer responsibilities set out in federal, state, and local laws and regulations, as well as health and economic considerations, can motivate employers to establish workplace policies that prohibit or restrict tobacco use. For example, the general duty of employers to provide safe work environments for their employees can motivate employers to prohibit smoking in their workplaces, thereby avoiding liability for exposing nonsmoking employees to SHS [Zellers et al. 2007]. Also, not only are nonsmoking workers generally healthier, but they are more productive and less costly for employers. Considering aggregate cost and productivity impacts, one recent study estimated that the annual cost to employ a smoker was, on average, nearly \$6,000 greater than the cost to employ a nonsmoker [Berman et al. 2013]. It follows that interventions that help smoking workers quit can benefit the bottom line of a business.

Several studies have shown that smoke-free workplace policies decrease exposure of nonsmoking employees to SHS at work, increase smoking cessation, and decrease smoking rates among employees [Fichtenberg and Glantz 2002; Bauer et al. 2005; DHHS 2006; IARC 2009; Hopkins et al. 2010]. Less restrictive workplace smoking policies are associated with higher levels of sustained tobacco use among workers [IARC 2009]. In workplaces without a workplace rule limiting smoking, workers are significantly more likely to be smokers [Ham et al. 2011]. Policies that make indoor workplaces smoke-free result in improved worker health [IARC 2009; Callinan et al. 2010]. For example, smoke-free policies in the hospitality industry have been shown to improve health among bar workers, who are often heavily exposed to SHS in the absence of such policies [Eisner et al. 1998; DHHS 2006; IARC 2009]. Smoke-free policies also reduce hospitalizations for heart attacks in the general population [IARC 2009; IOM 2010;

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- 1 Tan and Glantz 2010; DHHS 2014] and several recent studies suggest that these policies may also reduce
- 2 hospitalizations and emergency department visits for asthma in the general population [Hahn 2010;
- 3 Mackay et al. 2010; Tan and Glantz 2010; Herman and Walsh 2011; Millet et al. 2013]. The Task Force on
- 4 Community Preventive Services recommends smoke-free workplace policies, not only to reduce
- 5 exposure to SHS, but also to increase tobacco cessation, reduce tobacco use prevalence, and reduce
- 6 tobacco-related morbidity and mortality [Hopkins et al. 2010; Task Force on Community Preventive 7
  - Services 2010; GCPS 2012a].

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Some employers have taken action to extend restrictions on tobacco use by their employees beyond the workplace, for example prohibiting smoking by workers during their workday breaks, when away from the workplace, including during lunchtime. Several large employers have gone further by barring the hiring of smokers. Such wide-ranging policies generate substantial controversy and are illegal in some jurisdictions [Asch et al. 2013; Schmidt et al. 2013].

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## **Workplace Tobacco Use Cessation Programs**

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Smoking employees who want to quit can benefit from employer-provided resources and assistance. Various levels and types of cessation support can be provided to workers though more intensive intervention has a greater effect [O'Hara et al. 1993; Clinical Practice Guideline 2008]. Occupational health providers and worksite health promotion staff can increase quit rates simply by asking about a worker's tobacco use and offering brief counseling. Workers who smoke can be referred to publically funded state quitlines, which have been shown to increase tobacco cessation success [GCPS 2012b; Clinical Practice Guideline 2008]. Widespread availability, ease of accessibility, affordability, and potential reach to populations with higher levels of tobacco use make quitlines an important component of any cessation effort [Clinical Practice Guideline 2008]. But many employers do not make their employees aware of them [Hughes et al. 2011]. The most comprehensive workplace cessation programs incorporate tobacco cessation support into programs that address the overall safety, health, and wellbeing of workers. A growing evidence base supports the enhanced effectiveness of workplace programs that integrate health promotion efforts such as smoking cessation with more specific occupational health protection programs [Hymel et al. 2011; NIOSH 2013c].

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Health Insurance and Smoking; Using Incentives and Disincentives to Modify Tobacco Use Behavior

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Many workers are covered by employer-provided health insurance, which is increasingly being designed to encourage employees to adopt positive personal health-related behaviors, including smoking cessation for smokers. Quit rates are higher when health insurance covers the costs of evidence-based smoking cessation treatments [Clinical Practice Guideline 2008]. Ideally, such coverage should provide access to all evidence-based cessation treatments, including individual, group, and telephone counseling and all seven FDA-approved cessation medications, while eliminating or minimizing barriers such as cost-sharing and prior authorization [Clinical Practice Guideline 2008; CDC 2014c].

- 41 The Affordable Care Act (ACA) includes provisions pertinent to tobacco use and cessation. For example,
- 42 the ACA will allow employer-sponsored health insurance programs to charge tobacco users premiums
- 43 that are up to 50% higher than premiums charged to non-tobacco users [Kofman et al. 2012; Madison et

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al. 2013]. However, tobacco users in the group market can avoid these surcharges if they choose to participate in a cessation program. States can ban this practice or restrict the size of the surcharge, and several states have done so.

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In addition to employer-sponsored health insurance plan provisions discouraging tobacco use by covered workers, governmental actions and employer policies are increasingly removing disincentives and offering incentives for employee attempts to quit and for success in quitting tobacco use. Regulations promulgated under authority of the ACA increased the maximum permissible reward under a health-contingent wellness program offered in connection with a group health plan to 50% of the cost of coverage for wellness programs designed to prevent or reduce tobacco use [78 Fed. Reg. 33158]. The appropriate intent of incentives is not to shift health care costs to high-risk individuals but to help employees who use tobacco quit, thus improving health and reducing health care costs overall. The evidence for the effectiveness of imposing surcharges on tobacco users is limited, and care is needed to ensure that incentive programs are designed to work as intended and to minimize the potential use of incentives in an unduly coercive or discriminatory manner, and to avoid unintended consequences such as smokers concealing their smoking and avoiding seeking cessation assistance [Madison et al. 2011, 2013]. The Task Force on Community Preventive Services has recommended worksite-based incentives and even competitions when they are combined with other evidence-based interventions (e.g., education, group support, telephonic counseling, self-help materials, smoke-free workplace policies, etc.) as part of a comprehensive cessation program [GCPS 2005].

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## Conclusions

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 Tobacco smoking by workers and SHS exposure in the workplace have both declined substantially over recent decades, but about 20% of all U.S. workers still smoke and about 20% of nonsmoking workers are still exposed to SHS at work.

26 27 Smoking prevalence among workers varies widely by industry and occupation, approaching or exceeding 30% in construction, mining, and accommodation and food services workers.

28 29 30  Smokeless tobacco is used by about 3% of U.S. workers overall, but smokeless tobacco is used by more than 10% workers in construction and extraction jobs and by nearly 20% of workers in the mining industry.

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Tobacco use causes serious diseases, including cancer, respiratory diseases, and cardiovascular diseases, mainly among users but also among those exposed to SHS. More than 20 million U.S. adults live with a disease caused by tobacco and each year nearly a half million die prematurely from smoking or exposure to SHS. Tobacco use is associated with increased risk of injury and property loss due to fire, explosion, and vehicular collisions.

36 37 38 Tobacco use by workers can interact with hazardous occupational exposures, worsening the risk
of disease and injury from these exposures for smoking workers and workers who are exposed
to SHS.

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• Restrictions on smoking and tobacco use in specific work areas where particular high-risk occupational hazards (e.g., explosives, highly flammable materials, or highly toxic materials that could be ingested via tobacco use) are present have long been used to protect workers.

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There is no risk-free level of exposure to SHS, and ventilation is insufficient to eliminate indoor exposure to SHS.

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- Policies that prohibit tobacco smoking throughout the workplace (i.e., smoke-free workplace policies) are now widely implemented, but have not yet been universally adopted. These policies improve workplace air quality, reduce SHS exposure and related health effects, increase the likelihood that workers who smoke will quit, decrease the amount of smoking during the working day by employees who continue to smoke, and have an overall impact of improving the health of workers (i.e., among both nonsmokers who are no longer exposed to secondhand smoke on the job and smokers who quit).
- Workplace-based efforts to help workers quit tobacco use can be easily integrated into existing
  occupational health and wellness programs. Even minimal counseling and/or simple referral to
  state quitlines can be effective, and more comprehensive programs are even more effective at
  increasing quitting among workers.
- The integration of both occupational safety and health protection components into workplace health promotion (e.g., smoking cessation) programs can increase participation in tobacco cessation programs and successful cessation among blue-collar workers.
- On average, it is substantially more costly to employ a smoker than a nonsmoker.
- Some employers have policies prohibiting employees from using tobacco when away from work
  or barring the hiring of smokers or tobacco users, but the ethics of these policies remain under
  debate and they may be legally prohibited in some jurisdictions.

#### Recommendations

#### NIOSH recommends that employers:

- o Establish and maintain tobacco-free workplaces for all employees, allowing no use of any tobacco products, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and smokeless tobacco products by anyone at any time in the workplace. Ideally, this should be done in concert with an existing tobacco cessation support program. At a minimum, the tobacco-free zone should encompass all indoor areas with no exceptions and no indoor smoking areas of any kind (including separately enclosed and/or ventilated areas), as well as areas immediately outside building entrances and air intakes, and all work vehicles. Optimally and whenever feasible, the entire workplace campus, including all outdoor areas, should be established as tobacco-free. All tobacco-related restrictions and prohibitions should be equitably enforced.
- Assure compliance with current OSHA and MSHA regulations prohibiting or limiting smoking, smoking materials, and/or use of other tobacco products in work areas characterized by the presence of explosive or highly flammable materials or potential exposure to toxic materials (see Table A-3 in the Appendix). To the extent feasible, follow all similar NIOSH recommendations (see Table A-2 in the Appendix).
- o Provide information on tobacco-related health risks and on benefits of quitting to all employees and other (e.g., contracted or voluntary) workers on a regular basis.
  - o Inform all workers about health risks of tobacco use.
  - o Inform all workers about health risks of exposure to SHS.
  - Train workers who are exposed or potentially exposed to occupational hazards at work about health and/or injury risks of tobacco use combined with exposure to workplace hazards, about what the employer is doing to limit the risks, and about what the worker can do to limit his/her risks.

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- o Provide information on employer-provided and publically available tobacco cessation services to all employees and other (e.g., contracted or voluntary) workers on a regular basis.
  - At a minimum, include information on available quitlines and self-help materials, and information on employer-provided cessation programs and tobacco-related health insurance benefits available to the worker.
  - Ask about personal tobacco use as part of all occupational health and wellness program interactions with individual workers and promptly provide encouragement to quit and guidance on tobacco cessation to each worker identified as a tobacco user and to any other worker who requests tobacco cessation guidance.
- Offer and promote more comprehensive tobacco cessation support to all tobacco-using workers and, where feasible, to their dependents.
  - O Provide employer-sponsored cessation programs at no-cost or subsidize cessation programs for lower wage workers to enhance the likelihood of their participation. If health insurance is provided for employees, the health plan can be designed to provide employees with comprehensive cessation coverage, including evidence-based cessation treatments, unimpeded by co-pays and other financial or administrative barriers.
  - Assure inclusion of occupational health protection content specific to the individual workplace in employer-sponsored tobacco cessation programs offered to workers with jobs involving (potential) exposure to other occupational hazards.
- Become familiar with available guidance (e.g., CDC's 'Implementing a Tobacco-Free Campus Initiative in Your Workplace') (see Box 6-1) before developing, implementing, or modifying tobacco-related policies, interventions, or controls.
- Develop, implement, and modify tobacco-related policies, interventions, and controls in a stepwise and participatory manner—with input from employees, labor representatives, line management, occupational safety/health and wellness staff, and human resources professionals. Those providing input should include current and former tobacco users, as well as those who have never used tobacco. Seek voluntary input from employees with health conditions exacerbated by exposure to SHS, such as heart disease and asthma.
- Make sure that any differential employment benefits policies that are based on tobacco-use or participation in tobacco cessation programs are designed with a primary intent to improve worker health and comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Even when permissible by law, these differential employment benefit policies, as well as differential hiring policies based on tobacco use, should be implemented only after serious consideration is given to ethical concerns and possible unintended consequences, including the potential for adverse impacts on individual employees (e.g., coercion, discrimination, and breach of privacy) and the workforce as a whole.

NIOSH recommends that workers who smoke cigarettes or use other tobacco products:

o Comply with all workplace tobacco policies.

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- o Ask about available employer-provided tobacco cessation programs and cessation-related health insurance benefits.
- Quit using tobacco products, with the understanding that
  - Quitting tobacco use is beneficial at any age, but the earlier one quits, the greater the benefits.

1 2	<ul> <li>Many people find various types of assistance to be very helpful in quitting, and evidence-based cessation treatments have been found to increase smokers' chances of</li> </ul>
3	quitting successfully. Assistance may be obtained from some or all of the following:
4	<ul> <li>tobacco cessation programs</li> </ul>
5	<ul><li>your state quitline (phone: 1-800-QUIT-NOW [1-800-784-8669])</li></ul>
6	<ul><li>your health care provider.</li></ul>
7	In addition, individual workers who want to quit tobacco may find several of the
8	websites listed in Box 6-1 helpful.
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10	NIOSH recommends that all workers, including workers interested in quitting tobacco use and
11	nonsmokers exposed to SHS at their workplace:
12	o Know the occupational safety and health risks associated with their work, including those that
13	can be made worse by personal tobacco use, and how to limit those risks.
14	<ul> <li>Consider sharing a copy of this CIB with their employer.</li> </ul>
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## 1 List of Abbreviations

2	ACA	Affordable Care Act
3	CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
4	CIB	Current Intelligence Bulletin
5	COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
6	DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
7	ENDS	electronic nicotine delivery system
8	FDA	Food and Drug Administration
9	MSHA	Mine Safety and Health Administration
10	NHIS	National Health Interview Survey
11	NIOSH	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
12	OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
13	SHS	secondhand smoke
14	SIDS	sudden infant death syndrome
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#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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# Promoting Health and Preventing Disease and Injury through Workplace Tobacco Policies

## Part 1: BACKGROUND

The widespread recognition that tobacco use is a leading preventable cause of injury, disease, disability, and premature death in the United States is based on an extraordinarily strong scientific foundation. The first Surgeon General's report on smoking and health, issued 50 years ago, concluded that cigarette smoke causes lung cancer and chronic bronchitis [DHEW 1964]. Subsequent reports of the Surgeon General have determined that both active tobacco smoking and secondhand smoke (SHS) exposure are important risk factors for cancer, heart disease, and respiratory disease, and that smokeless tobacco use also causes serious disease, including oral, esophageal, and pancreatic cancer [e.g., DHHS 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986a,b, 2004, 2006, 2014]. One Surgeon General's report focused entirely on smoking-enhanced risks of cancer and chronic lung disease for workers exposed to hazardous industrial agents in the workplace [DHHS 1985]. Several reports of the Surgeon General have addressed benefits of effective smoking cessation programs and other means of reducing tobacco use [DHHS 1990, 2000, 2012, 2014].

A Surgeon General's report also established the ongoing *Healthy People* strategy, aimed broadly at improving the nation's health [DHEW 1979a]. Currently, *Healthy People 2020* includes a major goal of reducing "illness, disability, and death related to tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure" along with several specific objectives targeting elimination of tobacco smoking in workplaces [DHHS 2013]. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has declared reducing tobacco use a "Winnable Battle", noting that tobacco use is one of several "public health priorities with large-scale impact on health and with known, effective strategies to address them" [CDC 2013a], and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has published a strategic plan for tobacco control that envisions "a society free of tobacco-related death and disease" [DHHS 2010a].

Over time, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) publications have evolved in how they have acknowledged and made recommendations about hazards associated with tobacco use by workers. The first criteria document published by NIOSH—on asbestos—only briefly mentioned smoking, once in the context of a discussion of research findings that concluded that smoking alone could not explain the extremely high risk of lung cancer observed in asbestos-exposed workers, and once in a suggestion that the medical monitoring recommended by NIOSH for asbestos-exposed workers would offer opportunity for various forms of individualized medical management, including smoking cessation [NIOSH 1972] (see Appendix Table A-2). Nearly a decade later, after substantially more research on asbestos had been published, NIOSH disseminated a document affirming synergistic (i.e., more than additive) effects on lung cancer risk of combined exposure to asbestos and smoking [NIOSH 1980].

In the late 1970s, NIOSH scientists authored a chapter on "The Interaction between Smoking and Occupational Exposure" in the 1979 Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health [DHEW 1979b]. That work led directly to the first NIOSH publication focused solely on tobacco smoke, a Current Intelligence Bulletin (CIB) that outlined several ways in which smoking interacts with other workplace exposures to increase risk of disease and injury among workers [NIOSH 1979]. In that CIB, NIOSH

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recommended that smoking be curtailed in workplaces where those other hazards are present and that worker exposure to those other occupational hazards be controlled (see Appendix Table A-1).

Later, when scientific evidence became clear that the health risk from inhaling tobacco smoke is not limited to direct smokers but also affects bystanders, NIOSH published another CIB focused solely on tobacco smoke—this one on SHS in the workplace [NIOSH 1991]. In that CIB, NIOSH presented its determination that SHS (referred to in that document as "environmental tobacco smoke") causes cancer and cardiovascular disease. In recommending that workplace exposures to SHS be reduced to the lowest feasible concentration using all available preventive measures, NIOSH emphasized that the best approach is to eliminate tobacco smoking in the workplace and endorsed employer-provided smoking cessation programs for employees who smoke [NIOSH 1991] (see Appendix Table A-1).

In retrospect, the CIB on SHS in the workplace marked a watershed in the Institute's approach to occupational safety and health. Over time, NIOSH recommendations concerning specific industrial hazards—which earlier might have been relatively silent about what were then narrowly understood to be strictly personal health-related behaviors like smoking—have come to embrace a more comprehensive preventive approach. This evolution has been motivated by a better understanding of the interactive adverse effects of smoking and occupational exposures and, perhaps just as importantly, by a changing societal view of the health and economic consequences of tobacco use. By way of example, criteria documents produced in the past decade on two lung hazards—refractory ceramic fibers [NIOSH 2006] and hexavalent chromium [NIOSH 2013a]—have included entire sections on smoking cessation, something not seen in earlier criteria documents (see Appendix Table A-2). In a paper published in a medical journal in 2004, the Director of NIOSH concluded that "Smoking is an occupational hazard, both for the worker who smokes and for the non-smoker who is exposed to ETS in his or her workplace" and recommended that "Smoking as an occupational hazard should be completely eliminated for the sake of the health and safety of American workforce" [Howard 2004]. And a 2010 post on the NIOSH Blog site pointed out that "Tobacco-free workplaces, on-site tobacco cessation services, and comprehensive, employer-sponsored healthcare benefits that provide multiple quit attempts, have all been shown to increase tobacco treatment success" [Howard et al. 2010].

Thus, instead of staying focused nearly exclusively on protecting workers from specific occupational hazards, NIOSH has progressively adopted a "strategy integrating occupational safety and health protection with health promotion to prevent worker injury and illness and to advance health and well-being" [NIOSH 2013b]. This integrated approach, embodied by NIOSH in its Total Worker Health™ Program [Schill and Chosewood 2013], has motivated NIOSH to produce this CIB on *Promoting Health and Preventing Disease and Injury through Workplace Tobacco Policies*.

## Part 2: TOBACCO USE BY WORKERS AND SECONDHAND SMOKE EXPOSURES AT WORK

**Use of Conventional Tobacco Products by Workers** 

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## Tobacco Smoking

Since publication of the first Surgeon General's report on the health consequences of smoking, cigarette smoking prevalence has decreased substantially among U.S. adults, from 42.4% in 1965 to 18.1% in 2012 [CDC2014a]. Nationally representative studies on the smoking status of workers in the United States, most often based on one or more iterations of the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), have demonstrated substantial declines in overall smoking similar to smoking among all U.S. adults [Sterling and Weinkam 1976; Nelson et al. 1994; Lee et al. 2004, 2007; Barbeau et al. 2004]. The overall prevalence of current cigarette smoking among workers during the 2004–2010 period was 19.6%, very closely approximating the prevalence among all U.S. adults, which annually ranged from a high of 20.9% to a low of 19.3% during the 2004–2010 period [CDC 2011a, 2013b].

Over the past several decades, a number of studies have assessed smoking habits among U.S. workers. Consistently, these studies have shown substantially higher smoking prevalence among blue-collar workers compared with white-collar workers, particularly among males [Sterling and Weinkam 1976; DHHS 1985; Stellman et al. 1988; Brackbill et al. 1988; Covey et al. 1992; Nelson et al. 1994; Bang and Kim 2001; Barbeau et al. 2004; Lee et al. 2004, 2007; CDC 2011a; Calvert et al. 2013]. In addition, these studies provide evidence of higher intensity of smoking among blue-collar workers who smoke than white-collar workers who smoke [Fujishiro et al. 2012]. Among blue-collar workers, those with higher levels of exposure to dust and chemical hazards are more likely to be smokers [Chin et al. 2012].

NIOSH publishes recent data on smoking status by industry and occupation groupings in the *Work-Related Lung Disease (WoRLD) Surveillance Report* and corresponding online updates [NIOSH 2008a, 2014]. The most recent tables, covering the period 2004–2011, show that smoking prevalence varies widely—nearly four-fold—by industry. Smoking prevalence at or below 10% was found among major industry sectors in *education services* (9.8%) and among minor industry sectors in *religious, grantmaking, civic, labor, professional, and similar organizations* (10.0%). Smoking prevalence exceeding 30% was found among three major industry sectors—*construction* (32.1%), *accommodation and food services* (32.1%), and *mining* (30.2%)—and several minor sectors in other major industries—*gasoline stations* (37.6%), *fishing, trapping, and hunting* (34.3%), *forestry and logging* (32.9%), *warehousing and storage* (32.0%), *rental and leasing services* (31.3%), *wood product manufacturing* (30.7%), and *nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing* (30.4%). Additional tables posted on that same NIOSH site show that smoking prevalence varies even more extremely—25-fold—by specific occupational group, from 2.0% for *religious workers* to 49.5% for *construction trades helpers* [NIOSH 2014] (see Appendix Figures A-1a and A-1b).

#### Smokeless Tobacco

Smokeless tobacco is tobacco that is not burned when used. There are many different types of smokeless tobacco, including chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, snus, and dissolvable tobacco products. As with smoking, NHIS data have been used to estimate smokeless tobacco use by workers [Dietz et al. 2011; NIOSH 2014]. During 2010, an estimated 3% of currently working adults used smokeless tobacco in the form of chewing tobacco or snuff; smokeless tobacco use ranged up to 11% for those working in construction and extraction jobs and over 18% for those working in the mining industry [CDC 2014b;

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NIOSH 2014]. (Appendix Figures A-2a and A-2b display prevalence of smokeless tobacco use for major industry and occupation categories.)

## **Dual Use**

So-called "dual use" of tobacco (e.g., use of smokeless tobacco by individuals who also smoke tobacco products) is one way smokers can try to maintain their nicotine habit when and where smoking is prohibited. Based on 2010 NHIS data, over 4% of U.S. adult workers who smoke cigarettes also use smokeless tobacco in the form of snuff or chewing tobacco) [CDC 2014b; NIOSH 2014]. Dual use has traditionally been practiced by many workers, including coal miners and others, employed in mines or factories where smoking poses risk for explosion and fire [Mejia and Ling 2010]. (Appendix Figures A-3a and A-3b display prevalence of dual use among U.S. adult workers who are current smokers for major industry and occupation categories, respectively.)

#### **Secondhand Smoke Exposures at Work**

SHS is a mixture of the 'sidestream smoke' emitted directly into the air by the burning tobacco product and the 'mainstream smoke' exhaled by smokers while smoking. Workplace exposures to SHS have been demonstrated by using air monitoring and through the use of biological markers, such as cotinine, a metabolite of nicotine [Hammond et al. 1995; Hammond 1999; Achutan et al. 2011; Pacheco et al. 2012]. By the late 1990s, studies that objectively measured markers of SHS found levels that varied substantially by workplace. Where smoking was allowed, offices and blue-collar workplaces had similar concentrations of nicotine in the air; higher nicotine concentrations were present in restaurants, and still higher concentrations (an order of magnitude higher than in offices) were measured in bars [Hammond 1999]. More recently, objective evidence of absorption of a specific cancer-causing component of SHS was documented by showing significant increases in urine levels of a metabolite of that component over a work shift among nonsmoking card dealers at three casinos where smoking was prevalent [Achutan et al. 2012].

Various mandatory and voluntary efforts have either eliminated or substantially decreased exposure to SHS in many workplaces in the United States. In a 1986 survey of the civilian U.S. population, only 3% of employed respondents reported working under a smoke-free workplace policy [CDC 1988]. Subsequent surveys carried out in the 1990s tracked an increasing proportion of indoor workers reporting that they worked under a smoke-free workplace policy—just over 45% in 1993, just over 64% in 1996, and nearly 70% by 1999 [Shopland et al. 2004]. That 1999 survey found wide disparities; while smoke-free workplace policies covered 90% of teachers, they covered only 43% of food preparation and service workers, and only 13% of bartenders [Shopland et al. 2004].

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While establishment of smoke-free workplace policies continues to progress in the United States, these policies are not always 100% effective. One recent nationwide survey found that, among employed nonsmoking adults in the U.S. whose workplaces were covered by an indoor smoke-free policy, 16.4% reported exposure to SHS at work one or more days during the past seven days [King et al. 2014]. Still this compared favorably with the much greater 51.3% of those not covered by smoke-free policies who reported similar SHS at work [King et al. 2014].

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- 1 One recent nationwide survey found that 20.1% of nonsmoking employed adults reported SHS exposure
- 2 in their indoor workplace on one or more days during the past seven days [King et al. 2014]. An analysis
- 3 of recent NHIS data that used a more restrictive definition of SHS exposure—exposure to SHS at work on
- 4 two or more days per week during the past year—estimated that 10.0% of nonsmoking U.S. workers
- 5 reported frequent exposure to SHS at work [Calvert et al. 2013]. Prevalence of such frequent exposure
- 6 by major industry sector ranged from 4.1% for *finance and insurance* to 28.4% for *mining*, while
- 7 prevalence by major occupation ranged from 2.3% for education, training, and library occupations to
- 8 28.5% for 'construction and extraction' occupations (See Appendix Figures A-4a and A-4b).
- 9 Data from 14 state-based population surveys conducted in 2005 indicated that the majority of all indoor
- 10 workers reported a complete smoke-free workplace policy at their place of employment. State-specific
- proportions ranged from 54.8% (Nevada) to 85.8% (West Virginia), with a median of 73.4% [CDC 2006].
- 12 Results from later surveys conducted by 13 states in 2008 found proportions of nonsmoking employed
- 13 adults who reported SHS exposure on two or more days during the past seven days in their indoor
- workplace ranging from 6.0% (Tennessee) to 15.8% (Mississippi), with a state-specific median of 8.6%
- 15 [CDC 2009]. An even more recent survey involving all states, found proportions of nonsmoking
- employed adults who reported SHS exposure on one or more days during the past seven days in their

indoor workplace ranging from 12.4% (Maine) to 30.8% (Nevada)[King et al. 2014].

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Prevalences of SHS exposure at work on one or more days during the past seven days were significantly higher among males (23.8%) than females (16.7%), among those without a high school diploma (31.9%) than those with a graduate school degree (11.9%), and among those with an annual household income less than \$20,000 (24.2%) than those with ≥\$100,000 income (14.8%). A recent study separated effects on workplace SHS exposure associated with education and income from effects associated with occupation [Fujishiro et al. 2012]. Even after statistically adjusting for the effects of education and income, blue-collar workers were more likely to report workplace SHS exposure than managers and professionals. That same study also found that blue-collar workers were also more likely to be smokers and more likely to be heavy smokers, suggesting more intense SHS exposures at work for blue-collar

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#### **Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS)**

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First introduced into the U.S. market in 2007 [Regan et al. 2013], electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), which include electronic cigarettes, or e-cigarettes, are rapidly increasing in use [King et al. 2013]. The ENDS marketplace has diversified in recent years and now includes multiple products, including electronic hookahs, vape pens, electronic cigars, and electronic pipes. Typically, an ENDS product has a cartridge containing a liquid consisting of varying amounts of nicotine, a propylene glycol or glycerine carrier, and flavorings. Inhalation draws the fluid to a heating element, creating vapor that subsequently condenses into a misty aerosol [Ingebrethsen et al. 2012].

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Available data suggests that e-cigarettes use has increased greatly in the United States over the past several years. A recent mail survey of U.S. adults showed that the percentage who had ever used ENDS more than quadrupled from 0.6% in 2009 to 2.7% in 2010 [Regan et al. 2013]. A subsequent survey of U.S. adults found that approximately 1 in 5 current smokers reported ever having used e-cigarettes in 2011 [King et al. 2013]. To date, there have been no nationally representative surveys of ENDS use specifically among workers.

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## Part 3: HEALTH AND SAFETY CONSEQUENCES OF TOBACCO USE

## Interactions Involving Tobacco Use and Occupational Hazards

Tobacco use causes many health problems, outlined later in this section. Tobacco use (most commonly, smoking) can also interact in several ways with other hazards present in some workplaces to worsen their impact on workers' health [NIOSH 1979; DHEW 1979b; DHHS 1985]. Because the types of interactions discussed in the following paragraphs are not mutually exclusive, several of these interactions may be relevant for any given agent.

In one general type of interaction, the specific toxic chemicals associated with work processes in some workplaces are also present in tobacco products and/or smoke, thus increasing exposure to those specific agents among tobacco-using workers and workers exposed to SHS. Chemicals found in tobacco smoke to which some workers are exposed at their jobs due to work processes include acetone, acrolein, aldehydes (e.g., formaldehyde), arsenic, cadmium, carbon monoxide, hydrogen cyanide, hydrogen sulfide, ketones, lead, methyl nitrite, nicotine, nitrogen dioxide, phenol, and polycyclic aromatic compounds.

In another type of interaction, tobacco products serve as a pathway to increase exposure of tobaccousing workers to toxic occupational agents. Tobacco products can readily become contaminated by toxic occupational agents in the workplace. Subsequent use of the contaminated tobacco products, whether at or away from the workplace, can facilitate entry of these toxic agents into the body by inhalation, ingestion, and/or skin absorption.

Yet another type of interaction involves transformation of chemicals found in the workplace into more harmful agents. Heat generated by burning tobacco can cause reactions with some workplace chemicals. Examples of occupational agents that have the potential for conversion to highly toxic chemicals in the act of smoking tobacco products include polytetrafluoroethylene (Teflon®) and other chlorinated hydrocarbons (see Box 3-1).

## Box 3-1. Polymer Fume Fever in Smokers with Occupational Exposure to Tetrafluoroethylene [CDC 1987].

Soon after use of a new spray product containing tetrafluoroethylene (a fluorocarbon monomer) was introduced at a small industrial facility, workers began experiencing severe episodic "flu-like" symptoms. The symptoms—lower backache accompanied by fever, chills, and malaise, and a dry, nonproductive cough—occurred only on work days and usually subsided by the next morning. The spray was used in a stamp-making process, and only the employees making the stamps were affected. All the affected workers ate and smoked in their work area. After smoking was prohibited, no further symptoms occurred. Investigators concluded that workers had experienced polymer-fume fever due to contamination of cigarettes with the fluorocarbon (via the workplace air or direct contact with workers' hands) and subsequent inhalation of decomposition products created by the intense heat of the cigarettes as they smoked.

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Perhaps most substantial in terms of documented widespread impact on worker health is the type of interaction in which smoking and exposure to a toxic agent found in the workplace each have independent but similar adverse effects on an organ system. If a worker's lung function is already reduced by smoking, that worker is more vulnerable to the effects of any further lowering of lung function caused by occupational exposures to dusts, gases, or fumes. Looked at in another way, if a worker's lung function is already reduced by the effects of occupational exposure to dusts, gases, or fumes, that worker is more susceptible to the effects of smoking on lung function. The combined impact on affected workers can be either additive (i.e., amounting to the sum of each independent effect) or, in some cases, synergistic (i.e., amounting to an effect greater than the sum of each independent effect). One of the best known examples of such an effect is the synergistic effects of smoking and asbestos exposure on lung cancer (see Box 3-2). In addition to asbestos, other workplace hazards that can cause serious health problems, especially when combined with smoking, include coal mine dust, cotton dust, grain dust, silica dust, welding fumes, petrochemicals, aromatic amines, pesticides, and ionizing radiation [DHHS 1985]. Importantly, even if all smoking is eliminated from the workplace, workers who smoke outside of work remain vulnerable to this type of interaction.

Finally, occupational traumatic injuries and fatalities can result from interaction of tobacco use with existing occupational risks. Best recognized are explosion and fire risks when explosive or flammable materials in the workplace are ignited by sources associated with tobacco smoking. But, even without explosion or fire, any form of tobacco use may result in traumatic injury if a kinetic work process goes awry due to operator distraction associated with tobacco use (e.g., opening up, lighting up, extinguishing, or disposing of a tobacco product).

### **Health Problems Caused by Use of Tobacco Products**

## **Tobacco Smoking**

Smoking is a known cause of the top five health conditions impacting the U.S. population—heart disease, cancers, cerebrovascular disease, chronic lower respiratory disease, and unintentional injuries [DHHS 2004] (Table 3-1), and each of these is amenable to preventive intervention [Task Force on Community Preventive Services 2010]. The risk and severity of most adverse health outcomes caused by smoking are directly related to the intensity and duration of tobacco smoking, but no level tobacco smoking is risk-free [DHHS 2010b, 2014]. In the United States, smoking is responsible for more than 439,000 deaths each year among current and former smokers [DHHS 2014]. It is estimated that more than 20 million U.S. adults live with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or other disease attributable to tobacco [DHHS 2014].

### Table 3-1. Some Health Conditions Caused by Tobacco Smoking

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Cancers	Lung
	Bladder
	Esophageal
	Laryngeal
	Oral and throat
	Cervical
	Kidney
	Pancreatic
	Liver
	Stomach
	Colorectal
	Acute myeloid leukemia
Cardiovascular disease	Atherosclerosis
	Coronary heart disease
	Cerebrovascular disease (stroke)
	Abdominal aortic aneurysm
Lung disease	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
	Acute respiratory infections, including pneumonia
	Asthma exacerbation
	Tuberculosis
	Asthmatic and other respiratory symptoms
	Accelerated lung function decline
Reproductive effects	Reduced fertility
	Placental abnormalities
	Ectopic pregnancy
	Impaired fetal development and congenital orofacial defects
	Premature delivery
	Low birth weight
	Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)
	Erectile dysfunction
Other diseases or conditions	Cataracts, macular degeneration, and blindness
	Low bone density and hip fractures
	Poor wound healing
	Peptic ulcer disease
	Periodontitis
	Diabetes
	Rheumatoid arthritis
	Impaired immune function
	General poor health
Source: DHHS [2004-2014]	· Present of the second of the

Source: DHHS [2004, 2014]

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## <u>Cancer</u>

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Smoking is estimated to cause nearly 164,000 cancer deaths among smokers each year in the United States [DHHS 2014]. Cancers caused by smoking include lung, mouth, throat, bladder, and other cancers (Table 3-1). Among the carcinogens present in cigarette smoke are polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, N-nitrosamines, aromatic amines, 1,3-butadiene, benzene, aldehydes, and ethylene oxide. In addition to directly causing cancer, smoking interacts with occupational exposures known to separately cause cancer, leading to effects on cancer causation greater than the effects of the two factors separately [Wraith and Mengersen 2007; Frost et al. 2011; Markowitz et al. 2013] (see Box 3-2).

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Box 3-2. Lung Cancer Risk in Insulators—Effects of Smoking, Asbestos Exposure, and Asbestosis [Frost et al. 2011; Markowitz et al. 2013]

Cigarette smoking and exposure to asbestos are each well-known causes of lung cancer. Many studies have assessed lung cancer risk among persons who have both smoking and asbestos exposure as risk factors. One recent study confirmed the long-standing view that cigarette smoking raises the risk of death from lung cancer among asbestos-exposed workers in a manner that is greater than additive, if not multiplicative. Results of another recent study illustrate interactive effects of smoking combined not just with asbestos exposure, but also specifically with asbestosis (a fibrotic lung disease caused by asbestos). This was a long-term mortality study of 2,377 asbestos-exposed insulators identified in 1967 and 54,243 contemporaneous blue-collar workers with little, if any, asbestos exposure. The insulators were divided into two subgroups—one with and the other without radiographic evidence of asbestosis—with roughly equivalent asbestos exposure. Separate lung cancer risks were 10.3-fold for smoking (without asbestos exposure), 3.6-fold for asbestos exposure (without smoking), and 7.4-fold for asbestosis (without smoking). Combined lung cancer risks were 14.4-fold for smoking combined with asbestos exposure and 36.5-fold for smoking combined with asbestosis. The former is considered additive because the combined effect is about what would be expected by adding the separate risks for smoking and asbestos exposure; the latter is considered supra-additive (i.e., synergistic) because the combined effect is substantially greater than what would be expected by adding the separate risks for smoking and asbestosis.

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## Cardiovascular Disease

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Smoking is estimated to cause nearly 125,000 heart disease deaths among smokers each year in the United States [DHHS 2014]. The constituents of tobacco smoke believed to be responsible for causing cardiovascular disease include oxidizing chemicals, nicotine, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter. Coronary heart disease (ischemic heart disease) makes up the majority of those heart disease deaths. Cerebrovascular disease (vascular disease in the brain), which can cause strokes, is also a major cause of death from smoking. Smoking also causes aortic aneurysms and peripheral arterial disease. Smoking is estimated to cause nearly 27,000 cerebrovascular and peripheral vascular deaths among smokers each year in the United States [DHHS 2014]. Even low levels of exposure to tobacco smoke—such as a smoking only a few cigarettes per day, occasional smoking, or exposure to SHS—are enough to greatly increase risk of cardiovascular events [DHHS 2010b].

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#### Lung Disease

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Smoking is estimated to cause more than 113,000 deaths among smokers each year in the United States from non-malignant lung diseases [DHHS 2014]. Some of the chemical pathways by which tobacco smoke produces lung damage have been well characterized. It is likely that familial or genetic factors influence susceptibility to the adverse effects of tobacco smoke. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a broad designation for the bronchitis, emphysema, and airways obstruction that account for most smoking-caused respiratory deaths. As noted above, the effects of occupational exposure to agents that are toxic to the lung can combine with the adverse health effects of tobacco smoke to cause lung disease of greater severity than that expected from either of the exposures alone (see Box 3-3). While smoking is the single most common cause of COPD, occupational exposures—often combined with smoking—play a role in causing about 10% to 20% of all COPD cases [Balmes et al. 2003]. In addition, smoking causes exacerbation of asthma, greater susceptibility to infectious pneumonias, and higher risk of tuberculosis [DHHS 2014].

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### Reproductive and Developmental Effects

Inhalation of tobacco smoke affects the reproductive system, with harmful effects related to fertility, fetal and child development, and pregnancy outcome. Smoking is estimated to cause more than 1000 deaths from perinatal conditions each year in the United States [DHHS 2014]. Exposure to the complex chemical mixture of combustion compounds in tobacco smoke, including carbon monoxide which binds to hemoglobin and can deprive the fetus of oxygen, has been found to contribute to a wide range of reproductive effects in women. These effects include altered menstrual cycle and reduced fertility; placental abnormalities and preterm delivery; reduced birth weight, stillbirth, neonatal death, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) in their offspring; earlier and more symptomatic menopause; and other effects [DHHS 2001, 2004, 2014; Soares and Melo 2008; Sadeu et al. 2010]. Smoking by men causes erectile dysfunction [McVary et al. 2001; DHHS 2014], which can also impair reproduction.

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## Other Adverse Effects

Smoking is known to cause a variety of other health problems that contribute to the generally poorer health status of smokers as a group. These include visual difficulties (due to cataracts and age-related macular degeneration), hip fractures (due to low bone density), peptic ulcer disease, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, and periodontitis [DHHS 2014] (Table 3-1). Smoking may also cause hearing loss in adults [Cruickshanks et al. 1998].

Inflammatory effects of tobacco smoke have been associated with many other health effects. For example, smoking has been found to delay wound healing after surgery and lead to wound complications [Sorensen 2012]. Also, tobacco smoking may increase the risk of hearing loss caused by occupational exposure to excessive noise [Tao et al. 2013]. Research on other health effects associated with exposure to tobacco smoke will undoubtedly provide a more complete understanding of the adverse health effects of smoking.

## Box 3-3. Emphysema Risk in Coal Miners—Effects of Tobacco Smoking and Coal Mine Dust Exposure [Kuempel et al. 2009]

A recent study evaluated the effects of exposure to coal mine dust, cigarette smoking, and other factors on the severity of lung disease (emphysema) among more than 700 deceased individuals, including more than 600 deceased coal miners. The study found that combined occupational exposure to coal mine dust and cigarette smoking had an additive effect on the severity of emphysema among the coal miners. Among smokers and never-smokers alike, emphysema was generally more severe among those who had experienced higher levels of exposure to coal mine dust, but at any given level of dust exposure, miners who had smoked generally had worse emphysema than miners who had not smoked.

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#### Secondhand Smoke

In the United States, SHS exposure causes over 41,000 deaths among nonsmokers each year [DHHS 2014]. There is strong evidence of a causal relationship between SHS of adults and adverse health effects, including lung cancer, heart disease, stroke, exacerbation of asthma, nasal irritation, and (due to maternal exposure) reduced birth weight of offspring (Table 3-2) [DHHS 2006, 2014; IARC 2009; Henneberger et al. 2011]. The evidence that exposure to SHS causes health effects among exposed infants and children is also strong (Table 3-2) [DHHS 2006, 2014; IARC 2009].

In addition, there is suggestive evidence that exposure to SHS causes a range of other health effects. These include respiratory diseases (asthma, COPD), breast cancer, and nasal cancer among adults exposed to SHS, premature delivery of babies born to women exposed to SHS, and cancers (leukemia, lymphoma, brain cancer) among children exposed to SHS [DHHS 2006, 2014; IARC 2009]. SHS exposure may also be associated with hearing loss in adults [Fabry et al. 2011].

Table 3-2. Some Health Conditions Caused by Exposure to Secondhand Smoke		
Effects on nonsmoking	Premature death and disease	
adults	Lung cancer	
	Coronary artery disease	
	Stroke	
	Asthma exacerbation	
	Nasal Irritation	
Effects on infants/children	Premature death and disease	
	Reduced birth weight (due to maternal SHS exposure)	
	Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)	
	Slow lung growth and reduced lung function	
	Lower respiratory illnesses	
	More severe asthma	
	Wheeze illnesses	
	Respiratory symptoms (cough, phlegm, wheeze, breathlessness) Middle ear disease	
	2000) Harrach array at al [2014]	

 Source: DHHS [2006, 2014]; IARC [2009]; Henneberger et al. [2011]

Among adults, health risks of SHS exposure extend to workplace exposures. A meta-analysis of 11 pertinent studies provided quantitative estimates of lung cancer risk attributable to workplace exposure to SHS; lung cancer risk was increased by 24% overall among workers exposed to SHS in the workplace, and there was a doubling of lung cancer risk among workers categorized as highly exposed to SHS in the workplace [Stayner et al. 2008]. A dramatic example of an adverse effect of exposure to SHS in the workplace resulted in an asthmatic worker's death (see Box 3-4).

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Box 3-4. Asthma Death and Exposure to Secondhand Smoke—A Case Report [MIFACE 2006; Stansbury et al. 2008]

On May 1, 2004, a 19 year-old part-time waitress, who had a history of asthma since childhood, arrived at work. She spent 15-minutes chatting with a co-worker in an otherwise unoccupied room adjacent to the bar and was reported to have no apparent breathing difficulty at that time. She then entered the bar, which was occupied by dozens of patrons, many of them smokers. Less than 5 minutes later she reported to the manager that she wished she had her inhaler with her, needed fresh air, and needed to get to the hospital. As she walked towards the door, she collapsed. An emergency medical crew attempted resuscitation and transported her to a hospital emergency room where she was declared dead. "Status asthmaticus" and "asphyxia secondary to acute asthma attack" were the causes of death recorded on the death certificate and autopsy report, respectively. The workplace was described by an investigator from a NIOSH-funded state program as a "typical smoky bar." Based on the nature and circumstances of the waitress's death, it was concluded by the principal investigator of the state's fatality investigation program and his colleagues that this waitress died from exposure to work-related SHS.

### Smokeless Tobacco

Smokeless tobacco is a known cause of oral cancer, esophageal cancer, and pancreatic cancer [IARC

2012]. The most harmful chemicals in smokeless tobacco are tobacco-specific nitrosamines, which are formed during the growing, curing, fermenting, and aging of tobacco. Other cancer-causing substances in smokeless tobacco include polonium-210 (a radioactive element found in tobacco fertilizer) and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (also known as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) [DHHS 1986a].

### **Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS)**

Because ENDS are relatively new products, limited data are available on potential hazardous effects of active and passive exposures to their emissions. Most of the hazardous components identified in tobacco smoke are either absent from ENDS emissions or are present at much lower levels than in conventional tobacco smoke. However, ENDS are not emission-free and questions remain regarding the long-term impact of these products on individual and population level health. Contrary to some marketing messages, secondhand aerosol emitted from ENDS is not merely water vapor. Liquids formulated for ENDS use commonly contain nicotine and flavorings in a propylene glycol or glycerin carrier, but exact formulations of these predominant constituents and other additives and contaminants vary widely and are not well standardized [Cheng 2014]. In addition to nicotine, which itself is associated with various systemic toxicities at sufficient doses [NIOSH 2012] and adverse vascular effects at low doses [DHHS 2010b], substances that have been measured or can be reasonably anticipated in aerosol produced by ENDS include known carcinogens, respiratory irritants, and other harmful and potentially harmful constituents [FDA 2009; McAuley et al. 2012; Schripp et al. 2013; Schober et al. 2013; Shaller et al. 2013; Cheng 2014; Goniewicz et al. 2014].

Currently there are insufficient data to determine whether adverse long-term effects are likely to result from personal use of ENDS or from secondhand exposure to ENDS aerosol [Wagener et al. 2012; BMA 2013; Kamerow 2013; Drummond and Upson 2014; Schraufnagel et al. 2014], and evaluating long-term safety of ENDS use is an important current research priority [Andrade and Hastings 2013]. A recent

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review of the safety of ENDS use concluded that more research is warranted to determine the risk of various components of the nicotine-containing liquids used in ENDS, including flavoring components in particular "because the effects of inhaling flavoring substances approved for food use are largely unknown" [Farsalinos and Polosa 2014]. Some flavorings intended for ingestion have been shown to cause serious lung disease when inhaled at high concentration in other contexts [NIOSH 2004; CDC 2013c].

An experimental chamber study in which air contaminants were measured documented degradation of indoor air quality during ENDS use and found that air measurements of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons classified as probable carcinogens by IARC increased an average of 20% during ENDS use [Schober et al. 2013]. In light of irritant compounds (e.g., formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, and acrolein) identified in emissions from ENDS, it has been recommended that research be done to evaluate possible adverse effects of exposure to these compounds among ENDS users and individuals exposed to secondhand ENDS aerosol [Goniewicz et al 2014]. Indeed, findings relating to short-term adverse effects on ENDS users include preliminary reports of significantly increased airways resistance [Gennimata et al. 2012] and respiratory irritation and cough, particularly among individuals with asthma [Tsikrika et al. 2013]. No studies to date have observed similar short-term effects due to secondhand exposure to ENDS emissions did cause measurable changes in serum levels of cotinine, a metabolite of nicotine [Flouris et al. 2013].

#### Occupational Traumatic Injuries and Fatalities Caused by Tobacco Use

Smoking in the workplace can ignite explosive and other flammable materials, resulting in injury, death, and property loss. Smoking has been implicated as the known or suspected cause of several major industrial disasters in the United States, including the infamous Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in 1911 [Leistikow et al. 2000b]. To help prevent occupational explosions and fires, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) have established a number of regulations prohibiting use and possession of smoking-related materials (i.e., cigarettes, cigars, pipes, lighters, matches, etc.) in designated hazardous work areas (see Appendix Table A-3). Despite existing regulations and widespread awareness of the risk, occupational injuries and fatalities caused by smoking have continued to occur in the United States. Though prohibited in underground coal mines, MSHA investigations concluded that smoking materials ignited three fatal coal mine explosions between 1990 and 2000 [MSHA 2000]. OSHA records for 2000 through 2012 include documentation of 13 work-related fires or explosions—five of them fatal and all of them involving employee injuries—where smoking materials were implicated as the ignition source [OSHA 2013a] (see Box 3-5).

## Box 3-5. Smoking-ignited Fire Engulfs a Painting Crew—Two Dead and 11 Others Hospitalized [OSHA 2013b]

On July 29, 2003, two painting crews were working in a new residential subdivision and one of their two box trucks broke down near the end of the day. The company had the driver of the other truck pick up the stranded crew. That put 13 employees in the back of the truck and four in the cab. The truck was loaded with paints, lacquer thinner, stains, and acrylics, among other paint chemicals. A can of lacquer thinner spilled while employees were smoking in the truck. A lighted cigarette or a spark from a lighter ignited the lacquer thinner vapors. The truck was engulfed immediately. All 13

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## employees in the back of the truck were hospitalized for severe burns, and two of them died as a result of their injuries.

Even in the absence of fires or explosions, there is evidence that occupational traumatic injuries and property loss can be caused by tobacco use on the job. Use of tobacco products is recognized as a distracting factor while operating motor vehicles [NHTSA 2009], and smoking while driving increases the risk of being involved in a crash [Young et al. 2003]. While smokers are more likely to be injured at work than nonsmokers [Ryan et al. 1992; Sacks and Nelson 1994; Craig et al. 2006], specific explanations for this association are unlikely to be limited to mere distraction. Adverse smoking-associated physiological alterations in bone mineralization, blood vessels, and inflammatory response may also contribute to higher risk of occupational injuries and higher rates of associated disability among smokers [Lincoln et al. 2003]. A detailed discussion of how smoking can adversely impact unintended injuries and recovery from injuries has been published [Leistikow 2000a].

## Part 4: PREVENTIVE INTERVENTIONS

Comprehensive efforts to decrease tobacco use include various policies and education/cessation programs. Most of these intervention efforts focus on smoking, which is the most prevalent form of tobacco use (see Part I, above). Policies related to tobacco use in workplaces originally focused on prohibiting smoking in industrial work areas where explosion hazards were present. Currently, workplace tobacco policies increasingly center on: smoke-free or tobacco-free indoors or campus-wide prohibitions; other restrictions on tobacco use by employees; removal of tobacco vending machines and prohibiting other onsite sales of tobacco in workplaces; provision of tobacco cessation programs; employer-provided health insurance benefits designed to increase access and remove barriers to evidence-based cessation treatments and to provide incentives to quit tobacco use; and design of hiring policies based on smoking status.

Many preventive policies relating to smoking and the workplace are governed by local, state, or federal government laws and/or regulations. Others are independently implemented by employers as workplace requirements or conditions of employment. Employees and/or labor organizations can share in a sense of joint ownership if they meaningfully collaborate with the employer on policy language, approaches and timing, cessation supports, and compliance and consequence issues. Involving employees in the development, implementation, and evaluation of workplace programs is an effective strategy for changing employee culture and behavior [NIOSH 2008b].

Workplace tobacco policies are underpinned by several motivating interests (Tables 4-1 and 4-2). First and foremost is an interest in protecting tobacco users' health, given that tobacco use causes the top five health conditions that impact the U.S. population [Task Force on Community Preventive Services 2010]. Protecting the health of others, especially nonsmoking workers, is an important additional motivating interest. Legally determined employer responsibility to provide employees with a safe workplace can motivate action by employers. OSHA does not currently apply the "general duty clause" [29 USC § 654, 5(a)1] in the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSH Act), Public Law 91-596, to SHS exposure, but this is "a matter of prosecutorial discretion" [OSHA 2003], and employers would do

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well not to ignore legal implications of their duty to provide safe workplaces, including workplaces that are free from SHS exposure [Zellers et al. 2007].

Although the health and safety consequences of tobacco use offer sufficient rationale for workplace tobacco policies, economic considerations are also important. Government (i.e., taxpayers), employers, and employees all bear financial costs associated with adverse effects of tobacco use by workers and occupational exposure to SHS.

With respect to personal costs paid by individual smokers, there are obvious direct costs associated with consumer purchases of tobacco products and related materials. However, many smokers, especially those with the least discretionary income, are unaware of longer term financial costs. One financial writer estimated in 2007 that a typical pack-a-day smoker who is spending nearly \$2,000 annually just to purchase cigarettes could instead amass more than \$1 million by investing that amount each year from ages 18 to 65 in an individual retirement account invested with an emphasis on growth [Karp 2007]. That estimate did not encompass costs of smoking other than the purchase price of tobacco. Smokers are often charged higher premiums for health and life insurance and generally pay more out-of-pocket costs for health care. Families can experience substantial loss of income when their smoking breadwinner becomes disabled or dies prematurely from a smoking-related disease. Financial devastation can also result from smoking-caused residential fires through costly personal injury to the smoker and/or family members and through loss of residence and other personal property. In addition, smokers and their families may incur additional costs for more frequent cleaning, repairing, or replacement of clothing and other personal furnishings to remove smoke odors and tobacco-related stains.

With respect to employers' costs, a recent study estimated excess annual cost to U.S.-based private employers associated with employees who smoke cigarettes compared to those who do not. Considering aggregate cost and productivity impacts associated with smoking breaks, absenteeism, presenteeism, healthcare expenses, and pension benefits, the study estimated that the annual cost to employ a smoker was, on average, \$5,816 greater than the cost to employ a nonsmoker [Berman et al. 2013]. Interventions that help smoking workers quit can benefit a business' bottom line [NBGH 2013].

## Table 4-1. Some Reasons for Employees to Quit Tobacco Use

- To improve one's own health
  - Reduce risk for lung, mouth, throat, and other types of cancer. For example, lung cancer risk drops by as much as 50% ten years after quitting, and risks for cancers of the mouth and throat and bladder drop by 50% five years after quitting.
  - Diminish risk for coronary heart disease, stroke, and peripheral vascular disease. For example, heart disease risk drops by as much as 50% one year after quitting. Stroke risk attributable to tobacco use may be eliminated five years after quitting.
  - Ease symptoms such as coughing, wheezing, and shortness of breath within months of quitting and long-term risk for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and other respiratory diseases.
  - Lower risk of ulcer.
  - o Reduce risks of infertility (for women who stop smoking during their reproductive

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#### years).

- To protect the health of others
  - Avoid exposing family, friends, coworkers, and others to the harmful effects of secondhand smoke (SHS).
  - Lessen the risk of having a low-birth-weight baby (for women who stop smoking before becoming pregnant or during the first trimester of pregnancy).
  - o Increase the likelihood that one's young children will not use tobacco when they reach adolescence and adulthood.
- To improve personal/family finances
  - Save money by not spending money on tobacco and other tobacco-related expenditures (e.g., differential cost of insurance premiums).
  - Reduce the risk of financial devastation resulting from income loss due to smokingrelated disability or premature death, or from property loss due to a smoking-related home fire.
- To avoid personal inconvenience
  - Avoid the need for breaks to go outside, sometimes in the rain and cold, when working or socializing in tobacco-free venues.
- Adapted from ALA [undated] and CDC [2004]

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## Table 4-2. Some Reasons for Employers to Implement Workplace Tobacco Interventions

- To reduce occupational disease and injuries (and workers' compensation insurance costs).
- To lower health insurance and life insurance costs and claims.
- To decrease costs of training workers to replace those who die or become disabled.
- To increase productivity through reduced absenteeism and reduced presenteeism.
- To reduce accidents and fires (and related insurance costs).
- To lessen property damage (and related insurance costs).
- To eliminate indoor smoke pollution (and related cleaning, maintenance, and ventilation costs).
- To limit liability and legal costs for failing to provide a safe and healthful working environment.
- To enhance worker morale and corporate image by showing concern for employees/customers.

## Adapted from DHHS [1996]

## **Workplace Policies Prohibiting or Restricting Smoking**

For safety reasons, smoking has long been prohibited in particular work settings where explosive or extremely flammable materials are present (see Appendix Tables A-2 and A-3). A century ago, such prohibitions may have been motivated more out of concern about property loss than concern for the well-being of workers. Subsequently, concern about worker health has motivated additional policies prohibiting the use of tobacco products in specific work sites where exposure to certain hazardous

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occupational agents can be increased as a result of tobacco use (see Appendix Tables A-1 and A-3). The need for such venue-specific prohibitions on tobacco use has been widely understood and accepted; however, compliance with these prohibitions has been imperfect [MSHA 2000], indicating a need for ongoing training and vigilance.

In the last decades of the past century, as the public became more aware of the hazards of exposure to SHS, government (at the local, state, and federal levels) acted with intent to reduce workplace exposures to SHS and subsequently to eliminate SHS from workplaces. The Surgeon General has concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure to SHS [DHHS 2006, 2010b, 2014]. Complete prohibitions on workplace smoking have been shown to be effective in essentially eliminating SHS in workplaces [Hammond 1999]. Other measures, such as separating smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the workplace air, and ventilating buildings, cannot eliminate exposures of nonsmokers to SHS [NIOSH 1991; DHHS 2006; ASHRAE 2013]. Thus, ventilation is not an acceptable alternative to making workplaces completely smoke-free/tobacco-free.

Federal actions have been implemented to eliminate SHS from some workplaces. Actively supported by flight attendants and their union as a way to protect their health by eliminating SHS in their workplace, a federal law has prohibited smoking during all commercial passenger flights originating and/or terminating in the United States since 1990 [Pan et al. 2005]. In that same year, the Interstate Commerce Commission acted to ban smoking on interstate buses [49 CFR Part 374.201]. A 1997 Presidential Executive Order has prohibited tobacco smoking in all interior space owned, rented or leased by the executive branch of the Federal Government, with limited exceptions (e.g., specially-equipped designated smoking areas, certain residential settings, and space occupied by non-federal parties)[Cook and Bero 2009]. OSHA proposed a rule that would have more universally restricted smoking in the workplace [OSHA 1994], but later withdrew the proposed rule, noting workplace regulation of SHS was being advanced by private employers and by state and local governments [OSHA 2001].

The first comprehensive local and state laws restricting smoking in workplaces went into effect in 1993 (Shasta County, California) and 2002 (Delaware), respectively [CDC 2011b, 2012]. By the end of 2010, CDC reported that 26 states, the District of Columbia, and a majority of the 50 largest U.S. cities had enacted comprehensive smoke-free laws prohibiting, with no exceptions, smoking in all indoor areas of private workplaces, restaurants, and bars [CDC 2011b, 2012]. . Additionally, there has been a recent decline (from 12/31/04 to 12/31/09) in the number of states with laws preempting the regulation by local authorities of smoking in government workplaces (from 16 to nine states), private workplaces (from 15 to nine states), and restaurants (from 18 to 12 states) [CDC 2010].

The private sector has taken independent actions to eliminate exposure to SHS in the workplace. In the early 1990s, accredited hospitals were the first workplaces to accept a voluntary almost industry-wide smoke-free workplace policy, achieving a high level of compliance within just two years [Longo et al. 1995]. In addition to its intended effect on exposure to SHS, this policy has been associated with additional beneficial impacts on workplace safety and property loss (see Box 4-1). Many other businesses also voluntarily implemented smoke-free policies in their workplaces and, by the late 1990s, nearly 70% of U.S. workers employed in non-residential indoor worksites were working in smoke-free workplaces [Shopland et al. 2004; Fichtenberg and Glantz 2002].

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Box 4-1. Smoke-free Policies and Reduction in Structural Fires in Health Care Facilities [Arhens 2010]. Coincident with the implementation of comprehensive smoke-free workplace policies across the U.S. health care industry, the number of smoking-ignited structure fires involving health care facilities dropped from well over 3,000 per year in the early 1980s to only about 100 per year since the late 1990s. Notably, the percentage of all structural fires in health care facilities determined to have been caused by smoking materials dropped from 30% to 5% over the same period.

A number of studies, including meta-analyses, have shown that smoke-free workplace policies decrease exposure of nonsmoking employees to SHS at work and increase cessation among employees who smoke [DHHS 2006; IARC 2009; Hopkins et al. 2010]. While one review of the literature found inconclusive evidence that smoke-free workplace policies cause smokers to quit altogether [Callinan et al. 2010], there is strong evidence that such policies are associated with increased quit rates among smoking workers and with a reduction in the amount of smoking among those workers who continue to smoke [Fichtenberg and Glantz 2002; Bauer et al. 2005; IARC 2009; Hopkins et al. 2010]. In contrast, less restrictive workplace smoking policies are associated with sustained tobacco use among workers [IARC 2009]. A nationally representative survey found that in workplaces without a workplace rule limiting smoking, workers were significantly more likely to be smokers [Ham et al. 2011].

There is clear evidence of improved health among workers as a result of policy interventions to make indoor spaces, including workplaces, smoke-free [Callinan et al. 2010]. This is especially true for workers in the hospitality industry (see Box 4-2). Smoke-free policies have been shown to improve indoor air quality, reduce SHS exposure, reduce respiratory symptoms, and improve lung function among bar workers, but these policies also have been shown to reduce hospitalizations for heart attacks in the general population [IARC 2009; IOM 2010; Tan and Glantz 2010; DHHS 2014].Results of recent studies suggest that such policies may also reduce hospitalizations and emergency department visits for asthma [Hahn 2010; Mackay et al. 2010; Tan and Glantz 2010; Herman and Walsh 2011; Millet et al. 2013]. Smoke-free policies in the hospitality industry have been found to receive high levels of public support and compliance, and have not had a negative economic impact on the hospitality industry [DHHS 2006; IARC 2009].

Box 4-2. Prohibiting Smoking in Bars Improves the Health of Bartenders [Eisner et al. 1998]

A state law prohibited smoking in most California taverns and bars began on January 1, 1998.

Bartenders were surveyed in the month before the law took effect and again about one month afterward. Self-reported exposure to SHS fell from a median of 28 hours per week before the law took effect to 2 hours per week afterward. Respiratory symptoms and eye, nose, and throat irritant symptoms were each reported by about 75% of bartenders before the law took effect. Of those with symptoms at baseline, 59% with respiratory symptoms and 78% with irritant symptoms experienced resolution of those symptoms after the law took effect (p<0.001). On average, lung function measurements also improved. The authors of this study concluded that making taverns and bars smoke-free resulted in a rapid improvement in the health of bartenders.

On the basis of a finding of strong evidence of effectiveness available by 2001, the Task Force on Community Preventive Services recommended workplace smoking bans and restrictions as effective

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means for reducing exposure to SHS [Hopkins et al. 2010]. More recent evidence has led the Task Force to now recommend smoke-free workplace policies (i.e., total prohibition of smoking in the workplace), not only as a means to reduce exposure to SHS, but also as an effective means to increase tobacco cessation, reduce tobacco use prevalence, and reduce tobacco-related morbidity and mortality [Hopkins et al. 2010; Task Force on Community Preventive Services 2010; GCPS 2012a].

A World Health Organization study group has recommended that, in the absence of evidence that can assure authorities that use of ENDS does not expose others to toxic emissions, ENDS should not be exempted from laws which restrict the places in which cigarette smoking is allowed [WHO 2009]. The British Medical Association has taken the position that use of e-cigarettes should be prohibited in workplaces and public places not only to limit potentially harmful effects of secondhand exposures, but also to ensure that their use does not undermine smoking prevention and cessation efforts by reinforcing cigarette use as normal behavior [BMA 2013]. Similarly concerned about potentially hazardous secondhand exposure, the Federal German Institute for Risk Assessment has likewise recommended prohibiting use of e-cigarettes wherever tobacco smoking is prohibited [FGIRA 2012]. The Forum of International Respiratory Societies has concluded that ENDS use "should be restricted or banned until more information about their safety is available" [Schraufnagel et al. 2014]. In the United States, the number of states and localities that explicitly prohibit use of e-cigarettes in public places where tobacco smoking is already prohibited is increasing with time [ANRF 2014].

#### **Employer Prohibitions on Tobacco Use Extending Beyond the Workplace**

Some employers have taken action to extend restrictions on tobacco use by their employees beyond the workplace. For example, in 2013, the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps became the first federal uniformed service to prohibit tobacco use by its officers whenever and wherever they are in uniform [ACPM 2013]. More controversial are attempts of private employers to control the behavior of their employees outside of the workplace. For example, at a major medical center that had a smoke-free campus policy in place for years, the employer recently announced plans to prohibit smoking by workers during their workday breaks, including lunchtime, even when off campus [Toland 2013]. Several large employers and organizations (including the Cleveland Clinic, Union Pacific Railroad, the World Health Organization, and several others) have gone further by barring the hiring of smokers [Asch et al. 2013; Schmidt et al. 2013].

Controversy surrounds many organizational policies that bar the hiring of smokers or prohibit tobacco use by employees during the workday when they are away from the worksite even on their own time. Proponents argue that a nonsmoking workforce serves as a positive role model for health, experiences better health status, incurs substantially lower health care costs for employers and employees alike, and improves productivity [Asch et al. 2013]. Opponents posit the addictive nature of tobacco, note that tobacco use remains legal, and cite the disparate and potentially discriminatory effects such a policy might have on minority, lower-income, or less educated workers—groups that tend to have higher levels of tobacco use. They also point out that employers who refuse to hire smokers typically do not similarly refuse to hire individuals with other personal health behaviors that, like tobacco use, have adverse health consequences. They add that more than half of states have laws in place prohibiting employers from refusing to hire individuals because they smoke [Schmidt et al. 2013].

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## **Workplace Tobacco Use Cessation Programs**

Where employers establish smoke-free or tobacco-free workplace policies, smoking employees who want to quit can benefit from employer-provided resources and assistance. In 2010, roughly 65% of employed smokers in the United States expressed an interest in quitting tobacco and about half reported having tried to quit in the previous year [Yong et al. 2014]. Just as policies increasing tobacco taxes at the state and federal levels have led to increased calls to state telephone tobacco cessation quitlines [McGoldrick and Boonn 2010], implementation of tobacco-free workplace policies can be expected to increase worker interest in cessation support services. When a smoking cessation program is established in a workplace, smokers employed at that workplace are more likely to intend to quit in the next six months [Ham et al. 2011]. Various levels and types of cessation support can be provided [DHHS 1996].

On a basic level, a healthcare provider's inquiry about tobacco use and delivery of brief counseling advice to tobacco users has been shown to increase quit rates, with more intensive intervention having a greater effect [O'Hara et al. 1993; Clinical Practice Guideline 2008]. This basic approach can be readily 'piggy-backed' on occupational health services that already exist in many workplaces. For example, all workers enrolled in OSHA-mandated respiratory protection programs must be asked about tobacco use as part of their medical evaluation (see Appendix Table A-2 for applicable OSHA standard numbers). Other existing opportunities to ascertain individual smoking behavior include post-employment (preplacement) examinations, fitness-for-duty evaluations, and other health examinations already provided by employers. Whenever workers who smoke are identified, they can be counseled and offered cessation assistance.

Occupational health providers and workplace health promotion staff can offer basic cessation assistance by encouraging workers to use tobacco cessation telephone quitlines, internet cessation services, and cessation text messaging programs such as that offered by the National Cancer Institute through http://smokefree.gov/smokefreetxt. State quitlines exist in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, are publically funded, are typically available at no cost to smokers, and often provide free or discounted FDA-approved cessation medications. Callers can access their state quitline by dialing 1-800-QUIT-NOW. The 2008 Public Health Service Clinical Practice Guideline Panel and the Community Preventive Services Task Force recommend guitline interventions on the basis of strong evidence that they increase guit rates [GCPS 2012b; Clinical Practice Guideline 2008]. The Public Health Service Guideline further concludes that quitlines are effective with diverse populations and have broad reach [Clinical Practice Guideline 2008]. Similarly, the Community Preventive Services Task Force found that quitlines can help populations of smokers that have limited access to other tobacco cessation treatments [GCPS 2012b]. Their widespread availability, ease of accessibility, affordability, and potential reach to populations with higher levels of tobacco use make quitlines an important component of any cessation effort [Clinical Practice Guideline 2008]. Yet many employers do not make their employees aware of them. For example, a 2008 Washington State survey of almost 700 employers with at least 50 employees found that only 6% mentioned the availability of the state quitline in their health promotion messages to workers [Hughes et al. 2011].

The most comprehensive workplace cessation programs go well beyond minimal cessation counseling and referral to state quitlines. Employers can enter into preferred relationships with state quitlines or

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contract quitline providers to establish employer-specific quitlines with special services [Lichtenstein et al. 2010]. Individualized counseling and support can often be provided by an existing employee assistance program. A systematic review of the literature found that workplace-based smoking cessation services such as individual and group counseling, pharmacological treatment, and social support are all effective in enhancing quit rates when compared to no or minimal interventions [Cahill and Lancaster 2014]. Optimal work-based tobacco cessation programs are designed to provide follow-up assistance and to support multiple quit attempts because most smokers try to quit repeatedly before before finally succeeding [Clinical Practice Guideline 2008].

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Ideally, employers should incorporate tobacco cessation support programs into a more comprehensive approach that addresses the overall safety, health, and well-being of workers. A growing evidence base supports the enhanced effectiveness of workplace programs that integrate health promotion efforts such as smoking cessation with more specific occupational health protection programs [Hymel et al. 2011; NIOSH 2013c]. Such integrated workplace tobacco cessation programs may be most usefully implemented among blue-collar workers, who generally have higher smoking (and lower quitting) rates than office workers and who generally face higher risks from industrial hazards. A large randomized study involving 15 manufacturing sites showed that smoking quit rates among unionized workers more than doubled (p<0.03) when tobacco cessation and other health promotion messages were combined with occupational health and safety messages [Sorensen et al. 2003]. Another demonstration study of an integrated program aimed at enhancing smoking cessation among blue collar workers targeted participants in a union apprenticeship program [Barbeau et al. 2006] (see Box 4-3).

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> Box 4-3. Demonstration of a Smoking Cessation Program for Blue-Collar Workers [Barbeau et al. 2006] Apprentice ironworkers at a local union in Boston were studied before and after a four-month smoking cessation demonstration program. With input from union leaders and members, the program was carried out in a local union hall, where posters promoting cessation and featuring photographs of ironworkers were displayed. Articles explaining and promoting the program were published in the union newsletter. Occupational health protection aspects of the program were featured in an educational module on 'toxics and tobacco.' This module was taught by an industrial hygienist and covered separate and combined adverse health effects, including cancer, caused by smoking and workplace hazards (i.e., asbestos, welding fumes, and diesel exhaust) commonly encountered by ironworkers. Tobacco treatment specialists led weekly group sessions on tobacco cessation. Incentives to participate in the sessions included free lunches and, for those attending all sessions, a chance for a raffle prize. Self-help quit kits were provided to apprentices who chose not to attend the group sessions. Nicotine replacement therapy was available at no cost to participants. Of 337 participants, 139 (41.2%) were current smokers at the time the program was initiated. One month after the program concluded, 27 (19.4%) of those smokers had quit—a rate much higher than the expected ~5% quit rate. Program participants were three times more likely to quit than nonparticipants.

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### **Health Insurance and Smoking Behavior**

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Another recent phenomenon is the increasing use of health insurance to encourage employees to adopt positive personal health-related behaviors (e.g., smoking cessation) through modification in the design

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- 1 of benefits and out-of-pocket cost for covered individuals. For example, it is known that use quit rates
- 2 are higher when health insurance covers the costs of evidence-based smoking cessation treatments
- 3 [Clinical Practice Guideline 2008]. Ideally, such coverage should provide access to all evidence-based
- 4 cessation treatments, including individual, group, and telephone counseling and all seven FDA-approved
- 5 cessation medications, while eliminating or minimizing barriers such as cost-sharing and prior
- 6 authorization [Clinical Practice Guideline 2008; CDC 2014c].
- 7 Many workers are covered by employer-provided health insurance, and the employer can negotiate
- 8 with the insurance company to set benefits, premiums, and cost shares for covered workers. For multi-
- 9 employer health insurance programs that cover millions of union workers, representatives of the union
- also have a voice in the process. Insurance companies and human resources managers responsible for
- designing and negotiating health insurance plans need to be aware of various laws at the state and
- 12 federal levels that limit what can be negotiated. Applicable federal laws include the Health Insurance
- 13 Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Public Law 104-191, and the Patient Protection and
- 14 Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA), Public Law 111-148, now being implemented [Madison et al. 2013].
- 15 The ACA includes provisions pertinent to tobacco use and cessation. For the many workers covered by
- 16 group and individual private health insurance plans, the ACA requires non-grandfathered private plans
- to cover—without cost sharing—all preventive services judged by the U.S. Preventive Services Task
- 18 Force to provide a high certainty of substantial (grade A) or a moderate to substantial (grade B) net
- 19 benefit; this includes tobacco use counseling and tobacco cessation interventions, to which the Task
- Force assigned an 'A' grade [Kofman et al. 2012]. Subsequent guidance prepared by several Federal
- agencies clarifies that health plans will be considered to be in compliance with this requirement if, for
- 22 example, they cover without cost-sharing: screening for tobacco use; and at least two quit attempts a
- 23 year, including coverage without prior authorization for a 90-day treatment regimen (with access to all
- 24 seven FDA-approved cessation medications) when prescribed by a health care provider and four
- 25 sessions of telephone, group, or individual counseling of at least ten minutes each [USDOL 2014].

26 Insurers and employers who sponsor health insurance coverage for their employees will have expanded

- 27 opportunities to design incentives for wellness programs, including interventions intended to enhance
- 28 tobacco cessation (or, with some limitations, disincentives for continued tobacco use). For example, in
- 29 order to motivate employees to quit smoking, the ACA will allow employer-sponsored health insurance
- 30 programs to charge tobacco users premiums that are up to 50% higher than premiums charged non-
- 31 tobacco users [Kofman et al. 2012; Madison et al. 2013]. However, tobacco users in the group market
- 32 can avoid these surcharges if they choose to participate in a cessation program, which employers are
- required to make available. States can prevent employers from assessing these surcharges or further
- restrict the size of the surcharge, and several states have done so.

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Using Incentives and Disincentives to Modify Tobacco Use Behavior

Increasingly, governmental and employer actions are removing barriers and offering incentives for employee quit attempts and success in quitting tobacco use. Likewise, such actions are increasingly discouraging tobacco use by workers covered by employer-sponsored health insurance programs (e.g., through increased premiums for smokers). For example, more than one-third of surveyed large employers who offer their employees smoking cessation programs incentivize participation in these programs; and the number of large employers who are planning to reward or penalize smokers based on

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their smoking status is increasing—more than half of companies plan to do so by the end of 2013, up from less than 25% of employers who did so in 2010 [TowersWatson 2011].

A clear barrier that reduces use of evidence-based cessation treatments is out-of-pocket costs for cessation counseling and FDA-approved cessation medications. On the basis of strong evidence that the number of tobacco users who quit can be increased by reducing these out-of-pocket costs, the Community Preventive Services Task Force recommends reducing tobacco users' out-of-pocket costs for cessation treatments [GCPS 2012c].

The Task Force had earlier examined the issue of providing incentives for tobacco cessation, finding insufficient evidence at that time that workplace-based incentives or competitions by themselves reduced tobacco use among employees [GCPS 2005]. Even then, the Task Force went on to recommend worksite-based incentives and competitions when they are combined with other evidence-based interventions (e.g., education, group support, telephonic counseling, self-help materials, smoke-free workplace policies, etc.) as part of a comprehensive cessation program [GCPS 2005].

A subsequent systematic review of the literature identified a single well-designed study in which financial incentives integrated into a smoking cessation program produced a substantial and sustained beneficial impact [Cahill and Perera 2011]. Incentive payments for that randomized trial were structured as: \$100 for completion of the smoking-cessation program; \$250 for abstinence (confirmed biochemically) during the first 6 months after study enrollment; and \$400 for abstinence (also confirmed biochemically) during the subsequent 6 months. Smokers offered the financial incentives were three times as likely to enroll in the program (15.4% vs. 5.4%, p<0.001), four times as likely to complete the program (10.8% vs. 2.5%, p<0.001), and three times as likely to remain abstinent more than a year later (14.7% vs. 5.0%, p<0.001) [Volpp et al. 2009]. Notably, this study did not involve establishing a new smoking cessation program; rather, all participants were informed about existing smoking-cessation resources available in their community and about employer-provided health benefits related to smoking cessation.

A recent review explored ethical and legal issues relating to employer-provided incentives intended to change individual health behaviors, including tobacco use [Madison et al. 2011]. The authors identified a number of specific issues that call for scrutiny, including the need to ensure that incentive programs are designed to work as intended and the potential for incentives to be used in an unduly coercive or discriminatory manner. They emphasized that employers should play a collaborative, supportive role in advancing the health of workers, and further suggested that, in order to limit the potential for discrimination, programs should be designed to minimize differences in individual employees' abilities to access incentives [Madison et al. 2011]. It should be recognized that, while imposing surcharges or other disincentives on smokers has the potential to motivate them to quit smoking, the evidence that they are effective in doing so is quite limited, and care is needed to avoid such practices having unintended consequences. For example, these practices could lead smokers to conceal their smoking (and thereby not benefit from cessation assistance) or even to forgo health insurance coverage or quit their jobs [Madison et al. 2011]. The appropriate intent of incentives is to improve health and reduce health care costs overall, and not merely to shift health care costs to high-risk individuals [Madison et al. 2011, 2013].

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In summary, workplace policies are powerful tools that can benefit worker health. Well-designed policies protect workers from occupational risks, provide workplace-associated opportunities for enhancing worker health, and motivate workers to take beneficial actions to protect their well-being. While not a primary focus of this CIB, workplace policies that effectively sustain or improve worker health can also be cost-effective and benefit the employer's bottom line.

# **Part 5: CONCLUSIONS**

- Tobacco smoking by workers and SHS exposure in the workplace have both declined substantially over recent decades, but about 20% of all U.S. workers still smoke and about 20% of nonsmoking workers are still exposed to SHS at work.
- Smoking prevalence among workers varies widely by industry and occupation, approaching or exceeding 30% in construction, mining, and accommodation and food services workers.
- Smokeless tobacco is used by about 3% of U.S. workers overall, but smokeless tobacco is used by more than 10% workers in construction and extraction jobs and by nearly 20% of workers in the mining industry.
- Tobacco use causes serious diseases, including cancer, respiratory diseases, and cardiovascular diseases, mainly among users but also among those exposed to SHS. More than 20 million U.S. adults live with a disease caused by tobacco, and each year nearly a half million die prematurely from smoking or exposure to SHS.
- Tobacco use is associated with increased risk of injury and property loss due to fire, explosion, and vehicular collisions.
- Tobacco use by workers can interact with hazardous occupational exposures, worsening the risk
  of disease and injury from these exposures for smoking workers and workers who are exposed
  to SHS.
- Restrictions on smoking and tobacco use in specific work areas where particular high-risk occupational hazards (e.g., explosives, highly flammable materials, or highly toxic materials that could be ingested via tobacco use) are present have long been used to protect workers.
- There is no risk-free level of exposure to SHS, and ventilation is insufficient to eliminate indoor exposure to SHS.
- Policies that prohibit tobacco smoking throughout the workplace (i.e., smoke-free workplace policies) are now widely implemented, but have not yet been universally adopted. These policies improve workplace air quality, reduce SHS exposure and related health effects, increase the likelihood that workers who smoke will quit, decrease the amount of smoking during the working day by employees who continue to smoke, and have an overall impact of improving the health of workers (i.e., among both nonsmokers who are no longer exposed to secondhand smoke on the job and smokers who quit).
- Workplace-based efforts to help workers quit tobacco use can be easily integrated into existing
  occupational health and wellness programs. Even minimal counseling and/or simple referral to
  state quitlines can be effective, and more comprehensive programs are even more effective at
  increasing quitting among workers.
- The integration of both occupational safety and health protection components into workplace health promotion (e.g., smoking cessation) programs can increase participation in tobacco cessation programs and successful cessation among blue-collar workers.

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- On average, it is substantially more costly to employ a smoker than a nonsmoker.
- Some employers have policies prohibiting employees from using tobacco when away from work
  or barring the hiring of smokers or tobacco users, but the ethics of these policies remain under
  debate and they may be legally prohibited in some jurisdictions.

# Part 6: Recommendations

The following recommendations relate specifically to the issues raised in this CIB.

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### **NIOSH** recommends that employers:

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- co Establish and maintain tobacco-free workplaces for all employees, allowing no use of any tobacco products, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and smokeless tobacco products by anyone at any time in the workplace. Ideally, this should be done in concert with an existing tobacco cessation support program. At a minimum, the tobacco-free zone should encompass all indoor areas with no exceptions and no indoor smoking areas of any kind (including separately enclosed and/or ventilated areas), as well as areas immediately outside building entrances and air intakes, and all work vehicles. Optimally and whenever feasible, the entire workplace campus, including all outdoor areas, should be established as tobacco-free. All tobacco-related restrictions and prohibitions should be equitably enforced.
- Assure compliance with current OSHA and MSHA regulations prohibiting or limiting smoking, smoking materials, and/or use of other tobacco products in work areas characterized by the presence of explosive or highly flammable materials or potential exposure to toxic materials (see Table A-3 in the Appendix). To the extent feasible, follow all similar NIOSH recommendations (see Table A-2 in the Appendix).
- o Provide information on tobacco-related health risks and on benefits of quitting to all employees and other (e.g., contracted or voluntary) workers on a regular basis.
  - o Inform all workers about health risks of tobacco use.
  - o Inform all workers about health risks of exposure to SHS.
  - Train workers who are exposed or potentially exposed to occupational hazards at work about health and/or injury risks of tobacco use combined with exposure to workplace hazards, about what the employer is doing to limit the risks, and about what the worker can do to limit his/her risks.
- o Provide information on employer-provided and publically available tobacco cessation services to all employees and other (e.g., contracted or voluntary) workers on a regular basis.
  - At a minimum, include information on available quitlines and self-help materials, and information on employer-provided cessation programs and tobacco-related health insurance benefits available to the worker.
  - Ask about personal tobacco use as part of all occupational health and wellness program
    interactions with individual workers and promptly provide encouragement to quit and
    guidance on tobacco cessation to each worker identified as a tobacco user and to any
    other worker who requests tobacco cessation guidance.
- Offer and promote more comprehensive tobacco cessation support to all tobacco-using workers and, where feasible, to their dependents.

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- Provide employer-sponsored cessation programs at no-cost or subsidize cessation programs for lower wage workers to enhance the likelihood of their participation. If health insurance is provided for employees, the health plan can be designed to provide employees with comprehensive cessation coverage, including evidence-based cessation treatments, unimpeded by co-pays and other financial or administrative barriers.
- Assure inclusion of occupational health protection content specific to the individual workplace in employer-sponsored tobacco cessation programs offered to workers with jobs involving (potential) exposure to other occupational hazards.
- Become familiar with available guidance (e.g., CDC's 'Implementing a Tobacco-Free Campus Initiative in Your Workplace') (see Box 6-1) before developing, implementing, or modifying tobacco-related policies, interventions, or controls.
- Develop, implement, and modify tobacco-related policies, interventions, and controls in a stepwise and participatory manner—with input from employees, labor representatives, line management, occupational safety/health and wellness staff, and human resources professionals. Those providing input should include current and former tobacco users, as well as those who have never used tobacco. Seek voluntary input from employees with health conditions exacerbated by exposure to SHS, such as heart disease and asthma.
- O Make sure that any differential employment benefits policies that are based on tobacco-use or participation in tobacco cessation programs are designed with a primary intent to improve worker health and comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Even when permissible by law, these differential employment benefit policies, as well as differential hiring policies based on tobacco use, should be implemented only after serious consideration is given to ethical concerns and possible unintended consequences, including the potential for adverse impacts on individual employees (e.g., coercion, discrimination, and breach of privacy) and the workforce as a whole.

### NIOSH recommends that workers who smoke cigarettes or use other tobacco products:

Comply with all workplace tobacco policies.

- o Ask about available employer-provided tobacco cessation programs and cessation-related health insurance benefits.
- Quit using tobacco products, with the understanding that
  - Quitting tobacco use is beneficial at any age, but the earlier one quits, the greater the benefits.
  - Many people find various types of assistance to be very helpful in quitting, and evidence-based cessation treatments have been found to increase smokers' chances of quitting successfully. Assistance may be obtained from some or all of the following:
    - tobacco cessation programs
    - your state quitline (phone: 1-800-QUIT-NOW [1-800-784-8669])
    - your health care provider.

In addition, individual workers who want to quit tobacco may find several of the websites listed in Box 6-1 helpful.

NIOSH recommends that all workers, including workers interested in quitting tobacco use and nonsmokers exposed to SHS at their workplace:

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- o Know the occupational safety and health risks associated with their work, including those that can be made worse by personal tobacco use, and how to limit those risks.
- o Consider sharing a copy of this CIB with their employer.

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#### Box 6-1. Selected Web Resources

### <u>Government</u>

### **U.S. Department of Health And Human Services**

- Smokefree.gov
  - http://www.Smokefree.gov
- BeTobaccoFree.gov
  - http://betobaccofree.hhs.gov/index.html
- The Guide to Community Preventive Services
   Reducing Tobacco Use and Secondhand Smoke Exposure
   http://www.thecommunityguide.org/tebacco/index.html

http://www.thecommunityguide.org/tobacco/index.html

#### CDC

• Office on Smoking and Health

http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/quit smoking/index.htm

- Tobacco Use Cessation
  - http://www.cdc.gov/workplacehealthpromotion/implementation/topics/tobacco-use.html
- Tips from Former Smokers

http://www.cdc.gov/tips/

- Implementing a Tobacco-Free Campus Initiative in Your Workplace
  - http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpao/hwi/toolkits/tobacco/index.htm
- Save Lives, Save Money: Make Your Business Smoke-Free
  - http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic\_information/secondhand\_smoke/guides/business/pdfs/save\_lives\_save\_money.pdf
- A Practical Guide to Working with Health-Care Systems on Tobacco-Use Treatment
   http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/quit\_smoking/cessation/practical\_guide/pdfs/practical\_guide.pdf
- Total Worker Health™

http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/twh/

http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/twh/essentials.html

• Tobacco Smoke in the Workplace

http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/tobacco/

### **Other**

### North American Quitline Consortium (NAQC)

Quitline Map

http://map.naquitline.org/

### **American Lung Association**

• Stop Smoking

http://www.lung.org/stop-smoking/

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# • Workplace Wellness

http://www.lung.org/stop-smoking/workplace-wellness/

### **American Cancer Society**

• Great American Smokeout

http://www.cancer.org/healthy/stayawayfromtobacco/greatamericansmokeout/index

• Strategies for Promoting a Smoke-free Workplace Policy

http://www.cancer.org/downloads/gahc/hp\_strategies\_for\_promoting\_and\_implementing\_sm\_okefree\_workplace.pdf

• Making Your Workplace Smokefree: A Decision Maker's Guide

http://www.cancer.org/acs/groups/content/@highplains/documents/document/makingyourworkplacesmokefreegu.pdf

### **American Heart Association**

Quit Smoking

http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/GettingHealthy/QuitSmoking/QuitSmoking UCM 001085 SubHomePage.jsp

### **American Legacy Foundation**

• EX: A New Way to Think About Quitting Smoking

http://www.becomeanex.org/about-ex.php#

### **National Business Group on Health**

 Tobacco: The Business of Quitting – An Employer's Website for Tobacco Cessation http://www.businessgrouphealth.org/tobacco/

### PACT (Professional Assisted Cessation Therapy)

• Employers' Tobacco Cessation Guide: Practical Approaches to a Costly Workplace Problem http://www.endsmoking.org/resources/employersguide/pdf/employersguide-2nd-edition.pdf

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6 APPENDIX
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	Table A-1. Previous NIOSH Current Intelligence Bulletins on Tobacco Use				
Publication (year)	Findings	Recommendations			
Current	Smoking and/or tobacco products defined as cigarettes, cigars,	Use of and/or carrying of tobacco products into the workplace should be			
Intelligence	pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, and any by-products resulting	curtailed in situations where employees may be exposed to physical or			
Bulletin 31	from their burning and/or use.	chemical substances which may interact with tobacco products.			
	Identified six ways by which smoking and/or other tobacco use can				
Smoking and	interact with workplace exposures:	Curtailment of the use of tobacco products in the workplace should be			
the	1. Certain toxic agents present in some workplaces may also be	accompanied by simultaneous control of worker exposure to hazardous			
Occupational	present in tobacco smoke, increasing exposure to those agents.	physical and chemical agents.			
Environment	2. Some workplace chemicals can be transformed into more				
	harmful agents by smoking – specifically by the heat generated by				
(1979)	burning tobacco.				
	3. Tobacco products can become contaminated with toxic agents				
	present in the workplace, thus facilitating entry of the agent into				
	the body by inhalation, ingestion, and/or skin absorption.				
	4. Smoking can cause adverse health effects comparable to those				
	caused by exposure to toxic agents present in some workplaces,				
	thus causing additive effects.				
	5. Smoking can act synergistically with toxic agents present in				
	some workplaces to cause a much more profound effect than				
	anticipated simply from the separate influences of the				
	occupational exposure and smoking.				
	6. Smoking can contribute to accidents in the workplace				
Current	Main conclusion: "NIOSH has determined that the collective	Risk of developing cancer should be decreased by minimizing exposure			
Intelligence	weight of evidence is sufficient to conclude that [SHS]* poses an	to SHS			
Bulletin 54	increased risk of lung cancer and possibly heart disease to	Workers should not be involuntarily exposed to tobacco smoke			
	occupationally exposed workers."	Employers should assess conditions that may result in worker			
Environmental	Conclusions and recommendations based on:	exposure to SHS and take steps to reduce exposures to the lowest			
Tobacco	•reports of Surgeon General on health effects of tobacco smoke	feasible concentration			
Smoke in the	•comparison of chemical compositions of SHS and mainstream	Best method for controlling worker exposure to SHS is to eliminate			
Workplace:	smoke	tobacco use from the workplace and implement a smoking cessation			
Lung Cancer	•results from recent epidemiologic studies of nonsmokers exposed	program.			

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and Other	to SHS	Management and labor should work together to develop nonsmoking
Effects*	•methods for controlling involuntary workplace exposures to ETS	policies:
		•prohibit smoking at the workplace; post signs at workplace entrances
(1991)		•distribute information about health promotion and harmful effects of
		smoking
		•offer smoking-cessation classes to all workers
		<ul> <li>establish incentives to encourage workers to stop smoking</li> </ul>
		Pending complete elimination of tobacco smoking in the workplace,
		smoking should be isolated to clearly posted, enclosed areas, with
		separate ventilation exhausted directly to the outside without
		recirculation.

<sup>\*</sup>The 1991 document used the term "environmental tobacco smoke" [ETS] to refer to what this CIB calls "secondhand smoke" [SHS].

2

# Table A-2. Other NIOSH Publications with Policy Recommendations Relating to Tobacco Use

	Year	Agent/Process	Tobacco-related Recommendation(s)	Selected Additional Content
Criteria Doci	uments			
	1972	asbestos	smoking cessation (as medical management for exposed workers who smoke)	
	1972	carbon monoxide	medical exams, which could provide "opportunity to conduct anti-smoking programs for high-risk employees"	
	1973	Inorganic mercury	no smoking in designated areas; wash before smoking*	
	1975	inorganic fluorides	no smoking in designated areas; wash before smoking/chewing*; no carrying tobacco products in contaminated clothing	
	1976	boron trifluoride	no smoking or uncovered smoking materials in designated areas	
	1976	<u>carbaryl</u>	no smoking in designated areas; wash before smoking*	
	1976	formaldehyde	no smoking in designated areas; wash before smoking*	
	1976	methyl parathion	no smoking or carrying tobacco products in designated areas; wash before smoking*; post "No smoking" signs; provide area free of contamination for storing tobacco products	
	1976	organotin compounds	no smoking in designated areas	
	1976	parathion	no smoking or carrying tobacco products in designated areas; wash before smoking*; post "No smoking" signs; provide area free of contamination for storing tobacco products	
	1978	dinitro-ortho-cresol	no smoking in designated areas	
	1976	carbon tetrachloride	no smoking in designated areas; wash before smoking*	
	1979	chloroform	no smoking in designated areas; wash before smoking*	
	1988	welding, brazing, and thermal cutting	no use or storage of tobacco products in designated areas; wash before smoking*; counsel smokers about how smoking may enhance adverse effects of occupational hazards	

	2006	refractory ceramic fibers	no smoking in workplace; collect smoking histories as part of the medical monitoring program; counsel workers who smoke tobacco products about increased risk of adverse respiratory effects induced by RCF; disseminate information about health promotion and the harmful effects of smoking; establish and offer smoking cessation programs to workers at no cost; all workers who smoke and are potentially exposed to RCFs should participate in smoking cessation program	Entire sections (1.13and 9.6) devoted to smoking cessation NIOSH recognizes a synergistic effect of smoking and exposure to RCFs, increasing risk of adverse respiratory health effects induced by RCFs. Interactive effect of tobacco smoking and exposure to airborne fibers previously documented. RCF-associated decreases in pulmonary function limited to current and former smokers. Finding consistent with studies of workers exposed to airborne contaminants, in which combined smoking and exposures to various airborne dusts results on increased risk of occupational respiratory diseases, including chronic bronchitis, emphysema, and lung cancer.
	2013	hexavalent chromium	prohibit smoking in all areas of any workplaces in which workers are exposed to Cr(VI) compounds; as part of a comprehensive safety and health program, offer a no-cost smoking cessation program that informs workers about the hazards of cigarette smoking and provides assistance and encouragement for workers who want to quit smoking; all workers who smoke participate.	Entire section (8.7) devoted to smoking cessation  These elements, in combination with efforts to maintain airborne Cr(VI) concentrations below the REL and prevent dermal contact with Cr(VI) compounds, will further protect the health of workers.  [A]ssociation of skin disease and/or smoking habit with elevated urinary Cr levels in cement workers.
Alerts			, ,	
	1984	carbon monoxide hazard in aircraft refueling operations	workers engaged in fueling operations should be encouraged to refrain from smoking because smoking elevates blood levels of carbon monoxide enough to reduce margin of safety.	
1	1991	lead poisoning in construction	no use or carrying of tobacco products in designated area(s); wash before smoking*	
	1992	silicosis from sandblasting	no use of tobacco products in blasting area; wash before smoking*	
	1992	silicosis in rock drillers	no use of tobacco products in blasting area; wash before smoking*	
	1996	asthma from diisocyanate	wash before smoking outside work area	
	1996	silicosis in construction	no use of tobacco products in dusty areas; wash before smoking*	
1	1999	phosphine	wash before smoking*	

		poisoning and		
		explosions during		
		fumigation		
	2006	asthma from MDI	wash before smoking*	
	2006		wash before shloking	
		exposure during		
		spray-on truck bed		
		liner and related		
		applications		
	2007	explosions in	no smoking where EtO is handled, used, or stored	
		industrial ethylene		
		oxide sterilization		
		facilities		
	2007	fire fighter fatalities	prohibit smoking in all fire stations and other fire	Since not all fire stations are smoke free, involuntary exposure to
		due to heart attacks	department facilities; include a smoking cessation program	tobacco smoke continues to present cardiovascular risks for fire fighters.
		and other sudden	in any wellness program	Unrecognized sources of carbon monoxide exposure for fire
		cardiovascular		fighters include: environmental tobacco smoke; diesel exhaust in
		events		firehouse; diesel exhaust from fire engine operating at fire scene.
	2011	sensitization and	no storage or use of tobacco products in beryllium work	
		disease from	areas	
		beryllium exposure		
Fact Sheets				
	2003	asbestos associated	workers who have been exposed and currently smoke	
		with vermiculite	should quit smoking; employers can assist them by	
		from Libby, MT	offering smoking cessation programs.	
Workplace	Solution	S		
	2007	handling Micotil	no smoking in designated area	
		300 <sup>®</sup>	3 110 1111	
Infosheets	1	1		
	2012	cleaning chemicals	wash before smoking*	
Updates				
	1993	silicosis deaths	no use of tobacco products in designated area; wash	
			before smoking*	

osed National 1989	Proposed National	management and labor should work together to develop	Smoking is strongly associated with many lung diseases.
	Strategy for the Prevention of Occupational Lung Diseases	smoking policies:  •prohibit smoking at the workplace •distribute information about health promotion and harmful effects of smoking •offer no-cost smoking-cessation classes to all workers •establish incentives to encourage workers to stop smoking •post appropriate signs at workplace entrances	Smoking has an additive effect on the risk of chronic bronchitis in workers exposed to coal mine and other dusts, and it acts synergistically with asbestos to increase the risk of lung cancer.  Evidence indicates adverse effects on those who are exposed to the smoke of others.  Because of the overwhelming evidence of the health consequences from smoking and the number of workers affected a focus on smoking is an important component of an effective prevention strategy.
			Elimination of smoking in the workplace is an effective strategy.
1989	Proposed National Strategy for the Prevention of	identify groups of workers at high risk of cardiovascular and other diseases based on exposure in the workplace and personal risk factors; to ensure that workers have full and effective	In an ideal situation, when occupational factors increase the risk of cardiovascular disease, both occupational and personal risks would be addressed at the workplace.
	Occupational Cardiovascular Diseases	access, implement programs for health promotion and disease prevention at the worksite whenever possible or practical; programs should include efforts to reduce personal, modifiable risk factors for cardiovascular disease, including smoking	Encouraging workers to quit smoking is particularly important because smoking contributes not only to several cardiovascular diseases but to other diseases as well.
			Increasing the availability of health promotion programs in the workplace requires the cooperation of industry, labor unions, community and voluntary groups, and the government.
			Most programs will be conducted in the private sector, but governmental agencies can play important roles in stimulating the development of effective programs and in evaluating them.

<sup>\*&</sup>quot;Wash" in this context means wash hands and face.

To access individual documents, see NIOSH Publications and Products website [http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/pubs/default.html]. Disclaimer: Table is not necessarily comprehensive. NOTE: Table does not include NIOSH recommendations focused solely on tobacco use (see Table A-1) or, for example, tobacco-related recommendations included in agent-specific guidance included in NIOSH/OSHA Occupational Health Guidelines for Chemical Hazards (DHHS NIOSH Publication No. 81-123).

Table A-3. OSHA and MSHA Regulations with Provisions Relating to Tobacco Use

Hazard Category and Provisions	Agent/Process	Industry	Regulation CFR
Fire/Explosion	Hydrogen	General Industry	1910.103
For designated area(s):	Hydrogen or hydrogen sealing systems	Electric Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution	1910.269
-	Oxygen	General Industry	1910.104
<ul> <li>Smoking prohibitions.</li> </ul>		Surface metal/nonmetal mines	56.7805
<b>.</b>		Underground metal/nonmetal mines	57.7805
and (in most listed regulations)	Flammable liquids	General Industry	1910.106
-	·	Shipyards	1915.36
<ul> <li>'No-smoking' placard</li> </ul>		Marine Terminals Construction	1917.156
requirements.		Construction	1926.152
·		Surface metal/nonmetal mines	56.4100
and (in some listed regulations)			56.4101
-		Underground metal/nonmetal mines	57.4100
<ul> <li>Program to assure that no</li> </ul>			57.4101
smoking materials are	Spray finishing using flammable	General Industry	1910.107
carried.	and combustible materials	Marine Terminals	1917.153
	Explosives and blasting agents	General Industry	1910.109
and (in some listed regulations)		,	1926.900
			1926.902
<ul> <li>Smoking history required in</li> </ul>			1926.904
medical surveillance.		Surface metal/nonmetal mines	56.6904
		Underground metal/nonmetal mines	57.6904
		Underground coal mines	75.1702
			75.1721
	Storage and handling of liquefied petroleum gases	General Industry	1910.110
	Dipping and coating operations	General Industry	1910.125
	that use flammable liquids or		
	liquids with flashpoints greater		

than 199.4°F (93°C)		
Battery-charging/changing areas	General Industry	1910.178
	Surface metal/nonmetal mines	56.4502
	Underground metal/nonmetal mines	57.4502
	Marine Terminals	1917.157
	Longshoring	1918.1
Grain handling facilities	General Industry	1910.272
Permit-required Confined Spaces	General Industry	1910.146
Underground lines	Power Transmission and Distribution	1926.956
Benzene	General Industry	1910.1028
	Shipyards	1915.1028
	Construction	1926.1128
Acrylonitrile	General Industry	1910.1045
	Construction	1926.1145
Ethylene oxide	General Industry	1910.1047
	Construction	1926.1147
Formaldehyde	General Industry	1910.1048
	Shipyards	1915.1048
	Construction	1926.1148
Gassy operations	Underground Construction Caissons, Cofferdams, and	1926.800
	Compressed Air	
	Underground metal/nonmetal mines	57.22102
		57.22105
General Fire Prevention	Construction	1926.151
	Underground metal/nonmetal mines	57.4100
		57.4101
		57.6904
		57.7805
		57.22101
		57.22102
	Underground coal mines	77.1102
		77.1711
Record-keeping areas	Underground metal/nonmetal mines	57.5041

Ingestion/absorption of toxic agent	Asbestos	General Industry	1910.1001
		Shipyards	1915.1001
		Construction	1926.1101
For designated area(s):	13 specified carcinogens (4-	General Industry	1910.1003
	Nitrobiphenyl, etc.)	Shipyards	1915.1003
<ul> <li>Prohibitions on smoking,</li> </ul>		Construction	1926.1103
storage of smoking materials,	Inorganic arsenic	General Industry	1910.1018
tobacco products (including		Shipyards	1915.1018
chewing tobacco), and		Construction	1926.1118
chewing of such products.	Lead	General Industry	1910.1025
		Shipyards	1915.1025
and		Construction	1926.62
	Chromium (VI)	General Industry	1910.1026
<ul> <li>Requirements for washing</li> </ul>		Shipyards	1915.1026
prior to smoking/eating.		Longshoring	1918.1
		Construction	1926.1126
and (in most listed regulations)	Cadmium	General Industry	1910.1027
		Shipyards	1915.1027
<ul> <li>Requirements to post 'No-</li> </ul>		Construction	1926.1127
smoking' placards.		Agriculture	1928.1027
	Benzene	General Industry	1910.1028
		Shipyards	1915.1028
		Construction	1926.1128
	Coke oven emissions	General Industry	1910.1029
		Construction	1926.1129
	Bloodborne pathogens	General Industry	1910.1030
		Shipyards	1915.1030
	1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane	General Industry	1910.1044
		Shipyards	1915.1044
		Construction	1926.1144
	Acrylonitrile	General Industry	1910.1045
		Construction	1926.1145
	Ethylene oxide	General Industry	1910.1047

		Construction	1926.1147
	Ethylene oxide	General Industry	1910.1047
		Shipyards	1915.1047
	Formaldehyde	General Industry	1910.1048
		Shipyards	1915.1048
		Construction	1926.1148
	Methylenedianiline	General Industry	1910.1050
		Shipyards	1915.1050
		Construction	1926.60
	1,3-Butadiene	General Industry	1910.1051
	Methylene Chloride	General Industry	1910.1052
		Shipyards	1915.1052
		Construction	1926.1152
	Hazardous chemicals in	General Industry	1910.1450
	laboratories	Shipyards	1915.1450
	General/Field Sanitation	Shipyards	1915.88
		Agriculture	1928.110
Misc.	Personal Protective Equipment	General Industry	1910.134
<ul> <li>Personal Protective</li> </ul>		Shipyards	1915.154
Equipment Standard:		Marine Terminals	1917.92 1918.102
requires a 15-minute no-		Longshoring	1926.103
smoking period prior to Bitrex		Construction	
fit-testing of respirators.	Cotton Dust	General Industry	1910.1043
Cotton Dust Standard:	Hazard Communication	General Industry	1910.1200
required medical		Shipyards	1915.1200
questionnaire asks about		Construction	1926.59
smoking.			
Hazard Communication			
Standard: Appendices invoke			
smoking history in the			
assessment of evidence used			
to categorize substances as			
respiratory sensitizers, and			

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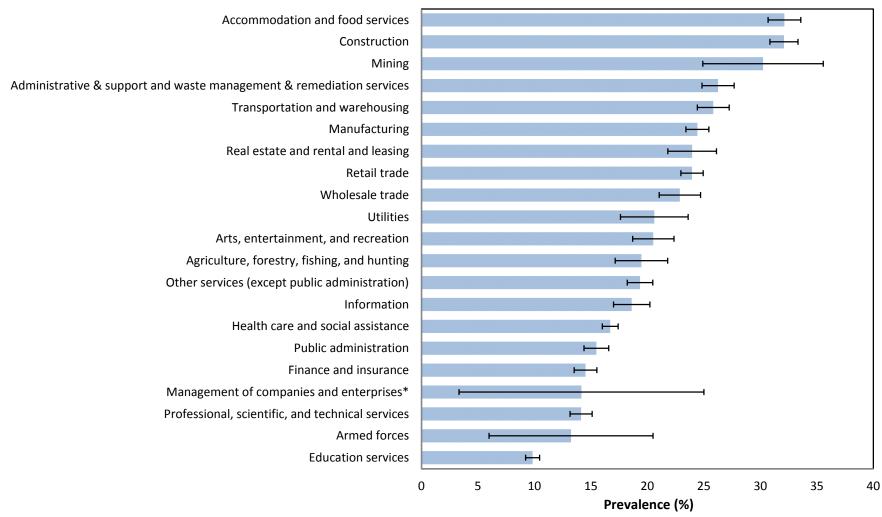
detail requirements for "No		
smoking" warning labels.		

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Specific requirements of OSHA and MSHA regulations should be determined by directly consulting those regulations. Disclaimer: Table is not necessarily comprehensive and is not intended to be used for compliance purposes. NOTE: Table does not include OSHA regulations that require retention of Department of Transportation markings, placards, and labels relating to flammability/explosivity (e.g., 1910.1201, 1915.88, 1917.29, 1926.61). Nor does it include OSHA 'model standards' for carcinogens (1990.151; 1990.152), which include a provision prohibiting smoking/chewing/tobacco.

Figure A-1a. Cigarette smoking among working adults, by industry—United States, 2004–2010



Adapted from: NIOSH [2014]. \*Estimates for industries with asterisks are statistically unstable due to large standard error.

Figure A-1b. Cigarette smoking among working adults, by occupation—United States, 2004–2010

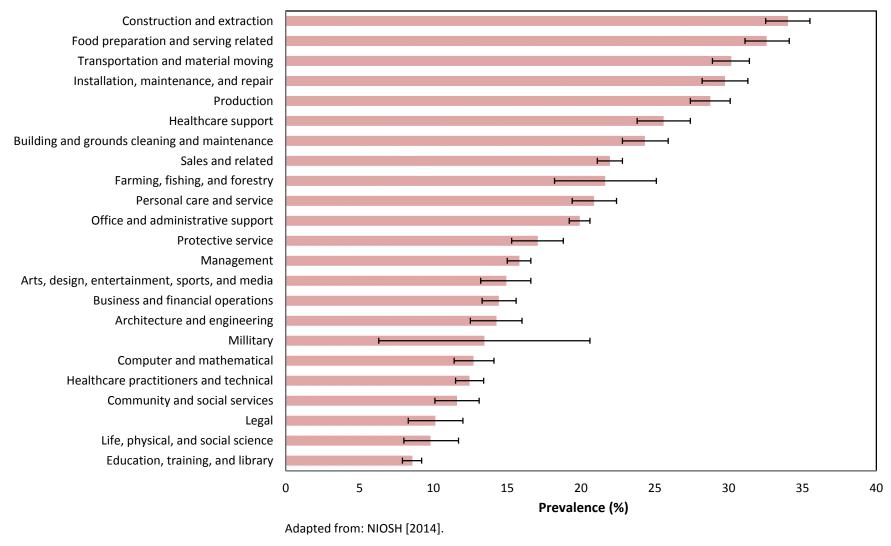
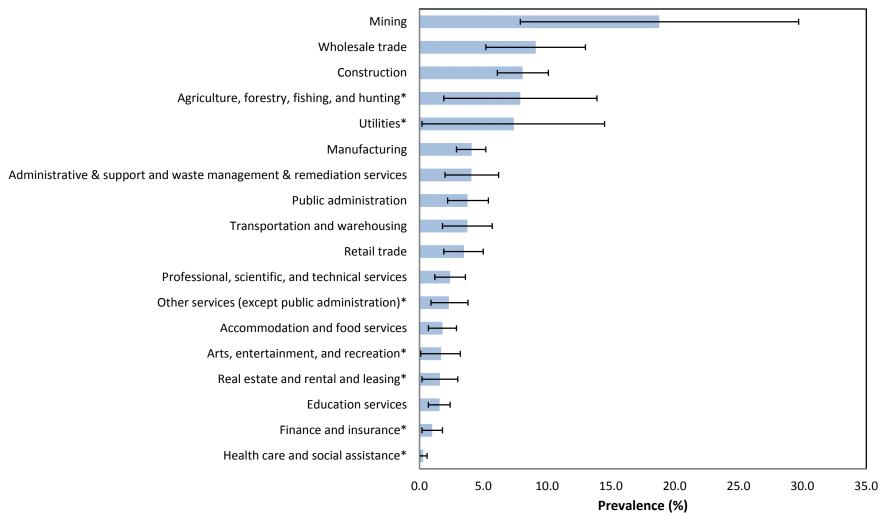
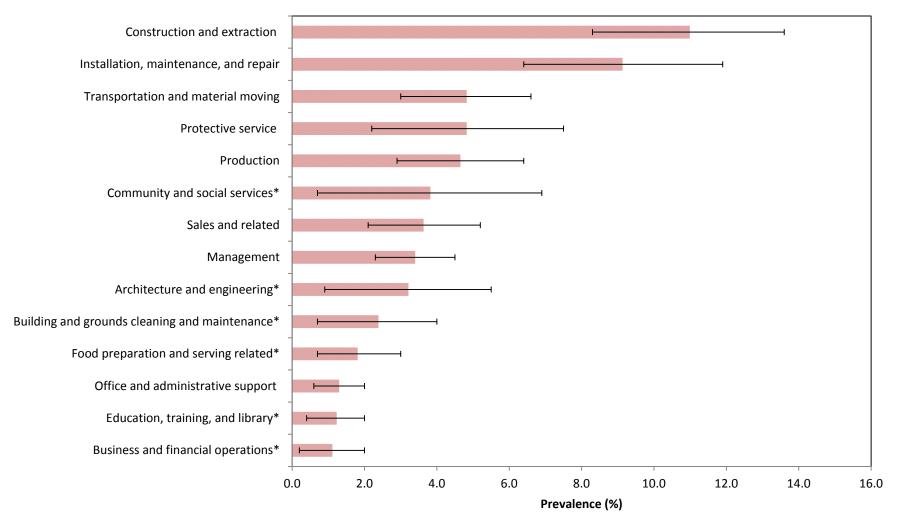


Figure A-2a. Smokeless tobacco use among working adults, by industry—United States, 2010



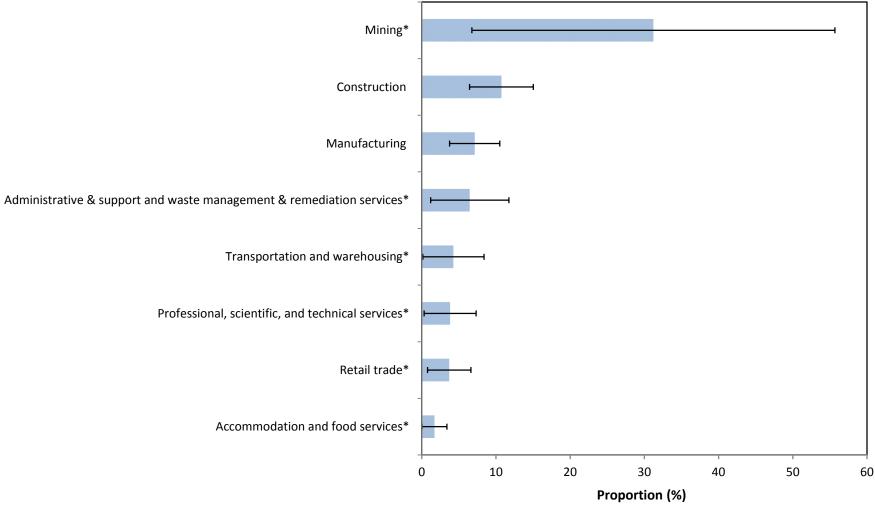
Adapted from: NIOSH [2014]. \*Estimates for industries with asterisks are statistically unstable due to large standard error.

Figure A-2b. Smokeless tobacco use among working adults, by occupation—National Health Interview Survey, 2010



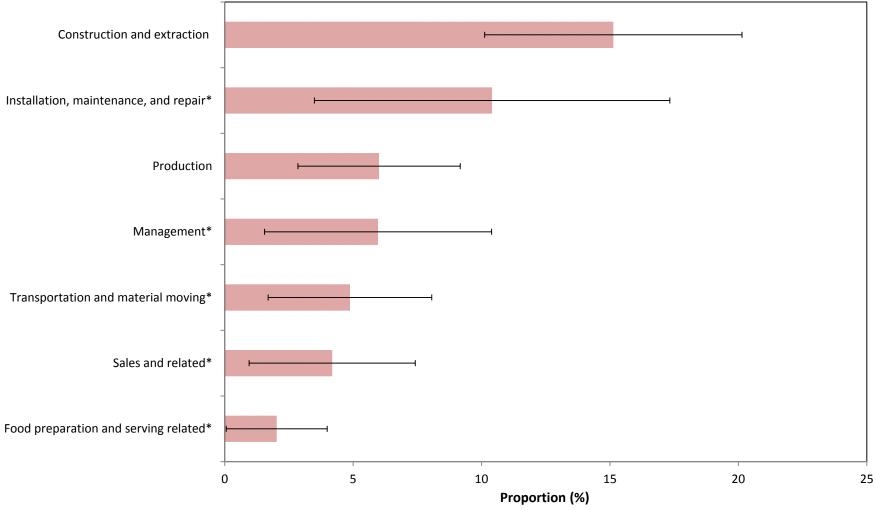
Adapted from: NIOSH [2014]. \*Estimates for industries with asterisks are statistically unstable due to large standard error.

Figure A-3a. Dual use of tobacco: Proportion of cigarette smokers who also use smokeless tobacco among working adults, by industry—United States, 2010



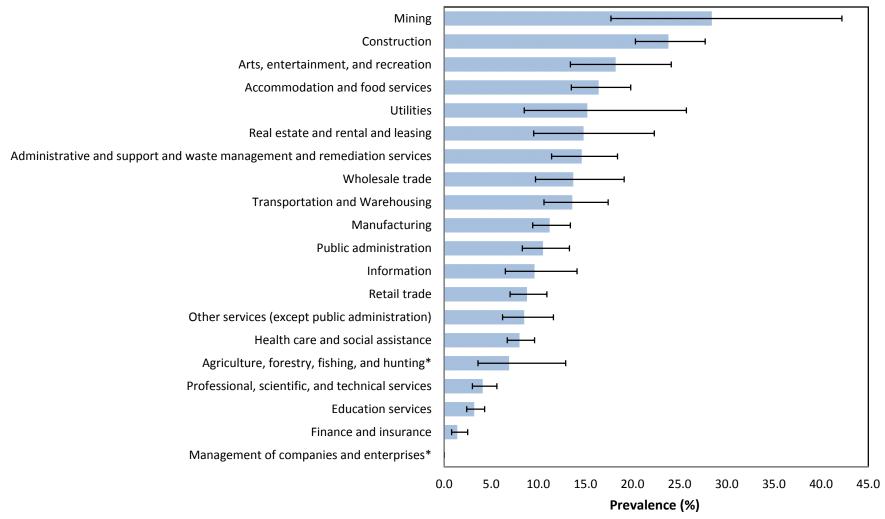
Adapted from: NIOSH [2014]. \*Estimates for occupations with asterisks are statistically unstable due to large standard error.

Figure A-3b. Dual use of tobacco: Proportion of cigarette smokers who also use smokeless tobacco among working adults, by occupation—United States, 2010



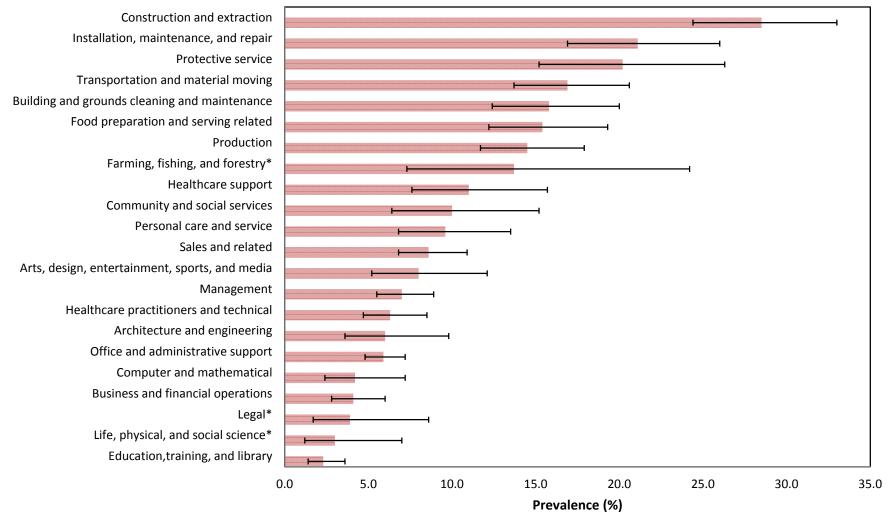
Adapted from: NIOSH [2014]. \*Estimates for occupations with asterisks are statistically unstable due to large standard error.

Figure A-4a. Prevalence of frequent exposure to SHS at work among nonsmoking adults who worked in the past 12 months, by industry—United States, 2010



Adapted from: Calvert et al. [2013]. \*Estimates for industries with asterisks are statistically unstable due to large standard error.

Figure A-4b. Prevalence of frequent exposure to SHS at work among nonsmoking adults who worked in the past 12 months, by occupation—United States, 2010



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Adapted from: Calvert et al. [2013]. \*Estimates for occupations with asterisks are statistically unstable due to large standard error.