

More Tobacco Facts:

- There are 4000 different chemicals in cigarette smoke, including 70 that are known carcinogens (cancer causing agents)
- A person who smokes 1 pack per day puts 1 quart of tar into their lungs each year
- Each tin of chew delivers as much nicotine as 30-40 cigarettes
- There is a lethal dose of nicotine in each can of chew
- Tobacco plants are grown in soils with high concentrates of radionuclide polonium-210. In one year the average smoker will expose themselves to the equivalent dose of radiation from 250-300 chest x-rays
- Smoking causes emphysema, cancer, heart disease, and stroke. Early signs of these diseases can be found in adolescents who smoke
- Exposure to second hand smoke is responsible for approximately 53,000 deaths in the US every year
- 1200 people die everyday in the US from a tobacco related illness, that is one person every 72 seconds
- 28 people die in MA every day of tobacco related illnesses
- There are 8.5 million people in the US right now who are sick due to a tobacco related illness
- Adult female smokers will lose an average 15 years off their life
- Adult male smokers will lose an average 13 years off their life
- Every day 1500 children become regular daily smokers, 1/3 of you will die from a tobacco related illness

Facts about tobacco companies:

- Tobacco companies put ammonia in cigarettes so that your brain absorbs twice as much as it normally would, so you get addicted faster and need more nicotine
- They add licorice and cocoa which, when burned, act as bronchodilators (opens your airways so that you take more smoke into your lungs)
- Their products kill more people than AIDS, murder, suicide, car crashes, alcohol, and all illegal drugs **combined**
- They fought and won in the Supreme Court to be able to advertise near schools and playgrounds
- Every day the tobacco companies get about 3000 new customers (KIDS!)
- **Tobacco companies call kids “replacement smokers.” That means kids are targeted to replace the 1200 smokers who die everyday**
- In a memo to employees at Camel, the marketing department said; “Realistically, if our company is to survive and prosper, over the long term, we must get our share of the youth market. In my opinion, this will require new brands tailored to the youth market”
- The company that advertises for Newports is quoted as writing the following; “We have been asked by our client to come up with a package design.. a design that is attractive to kids.”
- From the same company; “The base of our business is the high school student...it is the ‘in’ brand to smoke if you want to be one of the group.”
- In a 1953 RJ Reynolds (Camels) report “Studies of clinical data tend to confirm the relationship between heavy and prolonged tobacco smoking and incidence of cancer of the lung.” The very next year, the president of the RJ Reynolds company was quoted as saying, “There still isn’t a shred of evidence to link cigarette smoking and cancer of the lung directly.”
- In 1995 a major tobacco company planned to boost cigarette sales by targeting homeless people. They called it “Project SCUM: Sub Culture Urban Marketing.” (nice-huh?)
- In 1996 a tobacco executive was quoted as saying: “How do infants avoid second hand smoke? At some point they begin to crawl.”

Sources:

www.thetruth.com

Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids www.tobaccofreekids.com

RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company, “Tobacco Issues-HHS Ingredients list” 2000

Centers for Disease Control, “Health Effects of Smoking Among Young People” 1996

Moyer, David MD. “The Tobacco Reference Guide” 2000

(LPD updated 2006)