

# Protecting People from the Dangers of Tobacco

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Houston Department of  
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**GO HEALTHY  
HOUSTON**

to improve the health  
of the community

# Impact of Tobacco Use and Exposure

- Tobacco use is the **leading** cause of preventable illness and death in the United States.
- More than **16 million** people already have at least one disease from smoking.
- Secondhand Smoke is harmful in **outdoor** settings.
- An estimated **88 million** nonsmoking Americans, including **54%** of children aged 3–11 years, are exposed to secondhand smoke.
- U.S. Surgeon concludes that there is no **risk-free** level of exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Tobacco use costs the United States **billions** of dollars each year, including:
  - More than **\$289 billion** a year, including at least \$133 billion in direct medical care for adults and more than \$156 billion in lost productivity
  - **\$5.6 billion** a year in lost productivity from exposure to secondhand smoke

# Health Department is a Smoke-Free Campus

- The Houston Department of Health and Human Services is strongly committed to protecting the health and well-being of all citizens and supports the adoption of tobacco-free ordinances or policies that eliminate exposure to tobacco products in all public parks, recreation facilities and COH buildings.



# GO Healthy Houston Task Force (GHHTF) Supports Health in All Policies

- **Tobacco-free parks promote healthy living.**
- **Exposure to secondhand smoke is unhealthy — even outdoors.**
- **Tobacco-free parks mean less litter and less chance of fires.**
- **GHHTF worked in collaboration with COH and Houston Housing to implement Smoke Free Housing in Multi-family units.**
- **HDHHS/GHHTF is currently working with university campuses to implement Smoke-free policies.**
- **Tobacco-free policies make sense.**