

**The  
Health Consequences  
of Smoking**

**A Report of the Surgeon General: 1971**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE**

**Public Health Service**

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## Preface

This report is a comprehensive review of more than 20 years of research into the problem of smoking and health. This research has been carried on under the sponsorship of many groups in this country and abroad, including governments, universities, private research institutions, voluntary health agencies, and the tobacco industry.

Seven years ago, an advisory committee to the Surgeon General concluded that cigarette smoking is a serious hazard to health and is related to illness and death from lung cancer, chronic bronchopulmonary disease, cardiovascular disease and other diseases. In the intervening years, a great deal of new research has been completed. This has resulted in a growing understanding of the bio-mechanisms whereby cigarette smoking adversely affects the human organism and contributes to the development of serious illness.

It is encouraging that cigarette consumption in this country is declining. If this decline can be maintained, it will result in better health for our population and in fewer deaths among those of our citizens who are in their most productive years of life.

JESSE L. STEINFELD, M.D.,  
*Surgeon General.*

## Acknowledgments

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The professional staff has had the assistance and advice of a number of experts in the scientific and technical fields, both in and outside of the government. Their contributions are gratefully acknowledged. Special thanks are due the following:

- ANDERSON, WILLIAM H., M.D.—Chief, Pulmonary Disease Section, University of Louisville School of Medicine, Louisville, Ky.
- ANTHONISEN, NICHOLAS, R., M.D.—Ph. D.—Associate Professor, Department of Experimental Medicine, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- AUERBACH, OSCAR, M.D.—Senior Medical Investigator, VA Hospital, East Orange, N.J.
- AYRES, STEPHEN M., M.D.—Director, Saint Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center of New York, Cardiopulmonary Laboratory, New York, N.Y.
- BAKER, CARL, M.D.—Director, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md.
- BELLET, SAMUEL, M.D.—Director, Division of Cardiology, Philadelphia General Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.
- BING, RICHARD J., M.D.—Professor of Medicine, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Calif.
- BOCK, FRED G., Ph. D.—Director, Orchard Park Laboratories, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Orchard Park, N.Y.
- BOREN, HOLLIS, M.D.—Professor of Medicine, Marquette School of Medicine, Wood VA Hospital, Milwaukee, Wis.
- BOUTWELL, ROSWELL K., M.D.—Professor of Oncology, McArdle Laboratory for Cancer Research, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.
- COOPER, THEODORE, M.D.—Director, National Heart Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md.
- CORNFIELD, JEROME—Research Professor of Biostatistics, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, Biostatistics Project, Bethesda, Md.
- EARL, CHRISTOPHER J., M.D.—National Hospital, London, England.
- EPSTEIN, FREDERICK H., M.D.—Professor of Epidemiology, University of Michigan, School of Public Health, Ann Arbor, Mich.
- FALK, HANS L., Ph. D.—Associate Director for Laboratory Research, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle Park, N. C.
- FERRIS, BENJAMIN G., JR., M.D.—Professor, Department of Physiology, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Mass.

- FITZPATRICK, MARK J., M.D., M.P.H.—Obstetrician, Perinatal Biology and Infant Mortality, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md.
- FRAZIER, TODD M.—Assistant Director, Harvard Center for Community Health and Medical Care, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Mass.
- GOLDSMITH, JOHN R., M.D.—Head, Environmental Epidemiology Unit, California State Department of Public Health, Berkeley, Calif.
- HANNA, MICHAEL G., JR., Ph. D.—Biology Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tenn.
- HIGGINS, IAN T. T., M.D., M.R.C.P.—Professor, Department of Epidemiology, University of Michigan School of Public Health, Ann Arbor, Mich.
- HOFFMANN, DIETRICH, Ph. D.—Division of Environmental Toxicology, American Health Foundation, New York, N.Y.
- ISRAEL, ROBERT A.—Director, Division of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, U.S.P.H.S., U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Rockville, Md.
- KELLER, ANDREW Z., D.M.D., M.P.H.—Chief, Research in Geographic Epidemiology, Veterans Administration Central Office, Washington, D.C.
- KIRSNER, JOSEPH, M.D.—Professor of Medicine, University of Chicago School of Medicine, Chicago, Ill.
- KNOX, DAVID L., M.D.—Associate Professor, The Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md.
- KOLBYE, ALBERT C., JR., M.D., J.D.—Deputy Director, Bureau of Foods, Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington D.C.
- KOTIN, PAUL, M.D.—Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.
- KRUMHOLZ, RICHARD A., M.D.—Director, Institute of Respiratory Diseases, Kettering Medical Center, Kettering, Ohio.
- LIEBOW, AVERILL A., M.D.—Professor and Chairman, Department of Pathology, University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, Calif.
- LILIENFELD, ABRAHAM, M.D.—Professor and Chairman, Department of Chronic Diseases, Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, Baltimore, Md.
- MACMAHON, BRIAN, M.D.—Professor of Epidemiology, Harvard University School of Public Health, Boston, Mass.
- MCLEAN, ROSS, M.D.—Medical Consultant, Regional Medical Program of Texas, Austin, Tex.
- McMILLAN, GARDNER C., M.D.—Chief, Arteriosclerotic Disease Branch, National Heart and Lung Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md.
- MITCHELL, ROGER S., M.D.—Director, University of Colorado Medical Center, Webb-Waring Institute for Medical Research, Denver, Colo.
- MURPHY, EDMOND A., M.D., Sc. D.—Associate Professor of Medicine and Biostatistics, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Md.
- PAFFENBARGER, RALPH S., JR., M.D.—Chief, Bureau of Adult Health and Chronic Diseases, California State Department of Public Health, Berkeley, Calif.
- PETERS, JOHN M., M.D.—Associate Professor of Occupational Medicine, Harvard University School of Public Health, Boston, Mass.
- PETERSON, WILLIAM F., M.D.—Chairman, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Washington Hospital Center, Washington, D.C.
- PETTY, THOMAS L., M.D.—Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Colorado Medical Center, Denver, Colo.

- SAFFIOTTI, UMBERTO, M.D.—Associate Scientific Director for Carcinogenesis Etiology, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md.
- SCHUMAN, LEONARD M., M.D.—Professor and Head, Division of Epidemiology, University of Minnesota School of Public Health, Minneapolis, Minn.
- SHIMKIN, MICHAEL B., M.D.—Coordinator, Regional Medical Program, University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, Calif.
- STAMLER, JEREMIAH, M.D.—Executive Director, Chicago Board of Health, Health Research Foundation, Chicago, Ill.
- UNDERWOOD, PAUL B., JR., M.D.—Associate Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of South Carolina Medical School, Charleston, S.C.
- VAN DUUREN, BENJAMIN L., M.D.—Professor of Environmental Medicine, Institute of Environmental Medicine, New York University Medical Center, New York, N.Y.
- VICTOR, MAURICE, M.D.—Professor of Neurology, Department of Neurology, Case Western Reserve, Cleveland, Ohio.
- WYNDER, ERNEST L., M.D.—President and Medical Director, American Health Foundation, New York, N.Y.

The following professional staff of the National Clearinghouse for Smoking and Health contributed to the preparation of this report: John H. Holbrook, M.D., Richard W. White, Robert S. Hutchings, Elaine Bratic, Annabel W. Hecht, Richard H. Amacher, Donald R. Shopland and Jennie M. Jennings.

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