

Investment in research saves lives and money



facts about:

COPD

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease COPD is a term used to describe a group of lung diseases, including emphysema and chronic bronchitis, characterized by shortness of breath and a chronic cough.

Today:

- COPD is the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S.
- Twelve million U.S. adults are diagnosed with COPD. An additional 12 million likely have the disease and don't know it.
- COPD is the only syndrome among the top 10 causes of death projected to increase in the next decade. It is expected to be the third leading cause of death by 2020.
- Smoking is the greatest risk factor for COPD.
- There is no known cure for COPD; it is progressive and irreversible.

SOURCE: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (WWW.CDC.GOV)
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH, NATIONAL HEART, LUNG AND BLOOD INSTITUTE (WWW.NHLBI.NIH.GOV)
AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION (WWW.LUNGUSA.ORG)
LOVELACE RESPIRATORY RESEARCH INSTITUTE (WWW.LRRI.ORG)

SAVING LIVES
SAVING MONEY

HOW RESEARCH SAVES LIVES:

- Medically supervised exercise programs have been proven to reduce respiratory symptoms, decrease the number of hospitalizations and improve the quality of life for people with COPD.*
- Research has shown that smoking cessation slows the progressive loss of lung function in COPD patients. Programs and products developed through research now help smokers break their addiction to nicotine.

SOURCE: *VERRILL, D. ET AL. CHEST 2005. 128: 673-83.
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH, NATIONAL HEART, LUNG AND BLOOD INSTITUTE

HOW RESEARCH SAVES MONEY:

- Flare-ups of COPD symptoms often require hospitalizations and other unscheduled care, which account for the majority of health care costs of the disease. Research to improve the long-term management of COPD could significantly reduce the risk of hospitalization and the economic impact of the disease.
- The average cost of treating severe COPD is five times higher than treating mild COPD. By delaying the progression of the disease, the U.S. could decrease the direct, indirect and societal costs of COPD.

SOURCE: HALPERN, M.T. ET AL. RESPIRATORY MEDICINE 2003. 97(SUPPLEMENT C): S81-S89.

"If you think research is expensive, try disease."

— Mary Lasker 1901–1994

The Cost:

- COPD costs the U.S. economy \$37 billion a year: \$21 billion every year for direct medical costs and \$16 billion a year in indirect costs such as lost wages.

SOURCE: AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION

survivor



NAME: HOWARD OBER

AGE: 59

DISEASE: CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE (COPD)

Howard lives in Myrtle Beach, SC, where he works part-time as an information technology specialist. Ten years ago Howard began experiencing shortness of breath and was diagnosed by his physician with COPD. He was advised to immediately quit smoking, but it took him five years and help from the SmokeNoMore program to finally kick his 37 year habit. His physician designed a complicated regimen of medications and home oxygen treatment that have slowed the progress of his disease.

Howard always feels tired and that is what bothers him the most about his illness. He is tired because his diseased lungs do not deliver enough oxygen in his blood. As a result, he must limit his physical activity and can only work part-time. Despite his limitations, Howard feels fortunate to live at a time when COPD can be treated. "Research made it possible for me to live with COPD," he said.

As a strong advocate for research and education, Howard says that new and better drugs are desperately needed. "It is not the death sentence that some people think it is, but unlike other major diseases, the number of people with COPD is increasing."

facts about: } COPD

Hope for the Future:

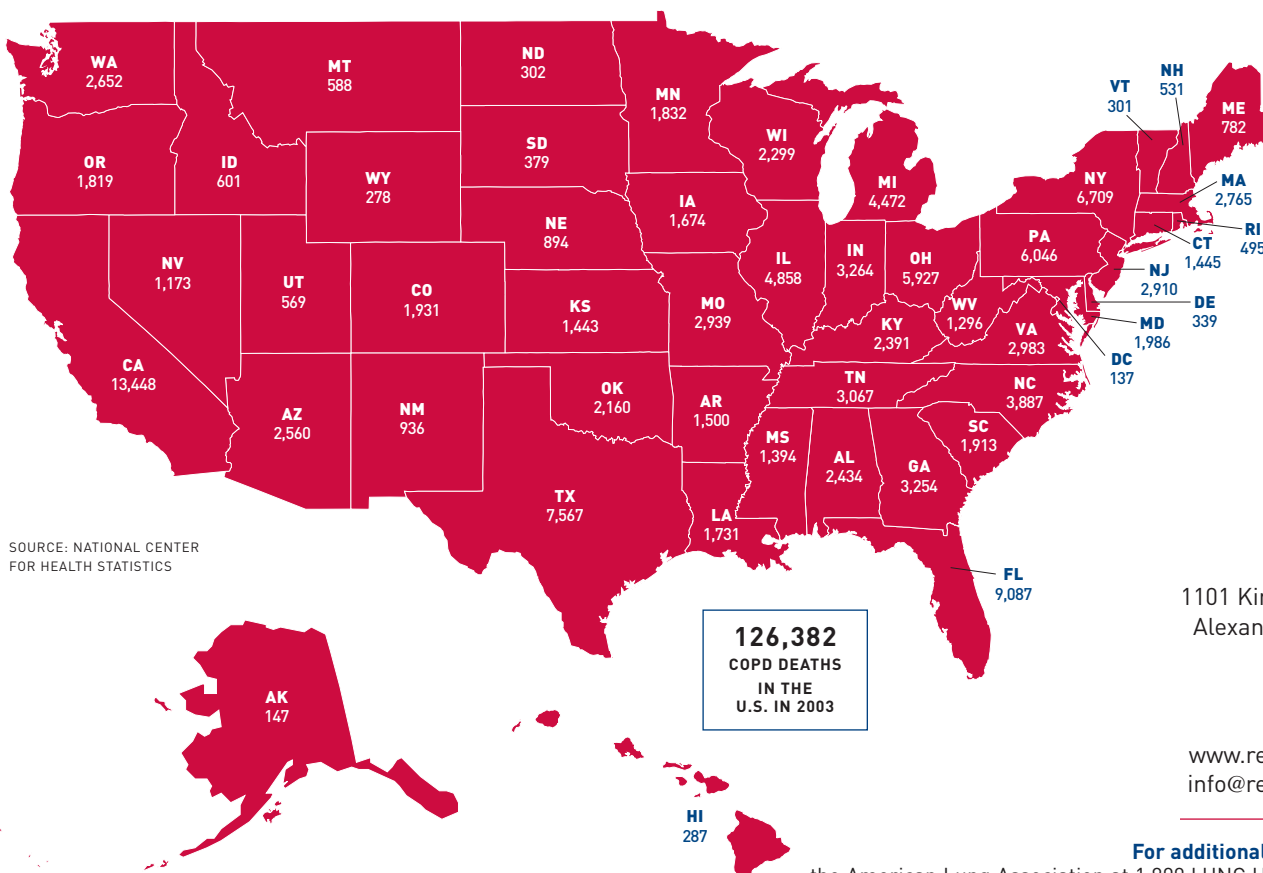
- Recent advances in understanding the causes of COPD could lead to new treatments that enhance the production of elastic fibers in the lung, use antioxidants to slow or prevent the disease, and decrease the production of mucus.
- Researchers have identified multiple genetic differences that may explain why some persons have a higher risk of developing COPD. This discovery could lead to new ways to treat and prevent COPD.

SOURCE: LOVELACE RESPIRATORY RESEARCH INSTITUTE (WWW.LRRI.ORG)

The Bottom Line:

Research is the answer to solving the long-term problems of preventing and managing chronic diseases like COPD. The health of Americans tomorrow hinges on research discoveries made by U.S. scientists and physicians today.

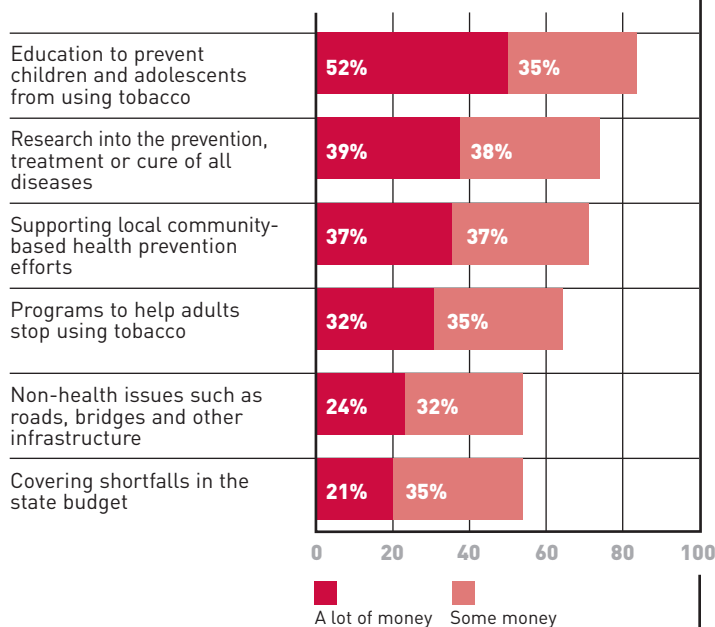
Number of Deaths from COPD in 2003



SOURCE: NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

Tobacco settlement dollars should be spent for research and prevention programs

Your state government is now receiving millions of dollars from tobacco companies. How much tobacco settlement money should go to each of the following?



SOURCE: AGGREGATE DATA, 2004-05. HARRIS INTERACTIVE FOR RESEARCH!AMERICA

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OR Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute; www.lrri.org.

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