

Facts Sheet on Smoking

“Tobacco is the leading preventable cause of mortality, responsible for 435,000 deaths a year in the United States. Smoking also exacerbates other conditions, like diabetes and asthma... and it causes lung and heart disease, stinks up your breath and clothes, and elicits dirty looks from strangers.”

- *Quit Smoking, U.S. News & World Report* (December 27, 2004/January 3, 2005), p. 74

“What’s the leading cancer killer of women?...Lung cancer. Its five-year survival rate is 15 percent, compared with 86 percent for breast cancer, and it takes a bigger toll. Breast cancer killed 40,000 U.S. women last year; lung cancer, 69,000. And though the disease is largely preventable, the annual toll has grown by 600 percent since 1930. The reason: cigarettes. More than 85 percent of women who get lung cancer are current or former smokers --yet one woman in five still smokes....Cigarettes can kill anyone, but the risks are especially high for women....In 2001, tobacco companies spent a record \$11.2 billion on promotions and advertising (some of it in *Newsweek*). And though movie stars are quick to don ribbons for other diseases, few step forward for lung-cancer awareness.”

- Karen Springen, Women, Cigarettes and Death, *Newsweek* (May 10, 2004), p. 69

“smoking among teens is up sharply; more than one third of them lit up last month....92 percent of teens smoke just four brands: Marlboro, Winston, Newport and Camel”

- Matthew Cooper and Elizabeth Roberts, *Trying to Stop a Teen Epidemic*, *Newsweek* (April 13, 1998) p. 50

“The smoking rate among students at four-year colleges rose by 28 percent from 1993 to 1997, fueled in part by an increase in adolescent smoking in the 1990s, according to a study released Tuesday.”

- *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, November 18, 1998

Tobacco is a product that is driven in large part by economic profit. In North Carolina, tobacco harvest value is \$3, 487 per acre. Cotton is \$418, corn is \$311, and soybeans is \$322. Interestingly grapes, which would be used in large part to produce wine, would generate a harvest value of \$3, 314.

- *Raleigh News and Observer*, January 2005.