

# Smoke-Free Colusa County Monthly

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Image from <http://tobaccofreeca.com/>

## Smoke-Free Colusa County Subcommittee

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The Smoke-Free Colusa County Subcommittee, part of the Colusa County Partners for Health, aims to improve the health of Colusa County residents through education and promotion of a tobacco-free lifestyle.

## Tobacco and cancer: What are the survival rates?

Article from Truth Initiative at <https://truthinitiative.org>.

The decline in the smoking rate has not changed some very significant facts: tobacco use remains the number one cause of preventable death and cancer death in the United States.

Nearly 30 percent of cancer deaths in the country can be attributed to tobacco use, according to the 2017 Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer from the American Cancer Society, the Centers for Disease Control and

## Smoke-Free Air Everywhere

Prevention, the National Cancer Institute and the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries.

Tobacco has firmly established links to [12 different kinds of cancer](#), many of which have the lowest survival rates. Five cancers with the lowest chances of survival five years after diagnosis that are strongly linked to tobacco use include: lung (18.7 percent),

pancreas (8.5 percent), liver (18.1 percent), esophagus (20.5 percent) and stomach (31.1 percent).

Curbing tobacco use has a huge impact on cancer deaths. For example, researchers estimate that the decline in tobacco use rates over the past 40 years accounted for about a 40 percent decline in male cancer deaths overall from 1991 to 2003.

“These facts underscore the need for expansions of federal and state tobacco control programs and the development of new strategies, such as pricing strategies and plain tobacco packaging to accelerate the reduction in tobacco use,” states the report.

For more on this topic, read our [tobacco and cancer fact sheet](#).

## *Colusa County Youth Advocates for Change Photovoice*

This year, during the Colusa County Fair, the Colusa Youth Advocates for Change presented their Photovoice project. Youth members used this project to present what they believe most impacts the health of youth in Colusa County. The project includes pictures of tobacco related ads and tobacco litter found in public places in the city of Colusa. This time intensive project involved trainings, field trips to photograph locations, and compiling the presentation in a format to be displayed to the public. The youth members spent several days at the fair presenting

their project and answering questions for the community. Check out some of their favorite photos!



“People are forgetting that you can’t just smoke wherever you want; there are rules. It affects not just the user, but everyone around.”- Colusa High School Sophomore



“Taking this picture made me feel shocked and upset. It seems like tobacco litter is an accepted part of our environment.” - Colusa High School Sophomore



“Kids are being exposed to flavored tobacco advertisements right next to the local donut shop. The tobacco industry is really good at knowing where to place their ads. They’re very clever.” - Colusa High School Senior



“This image ticked me off, this is a hospital. Doctors know the dangers that come with smoking. People with sensitive conditions are being exposed to the harmful effects of secondhand smoke as well as thirdhand smoke because the residue lingers on staff clothing.” - Colusa High School Senior

## Upcoming Events

- **July 26th 12:00-2:00 Colusa County Partners for Health Meeting (Location TBA)** – Join Colusa County community members as we begin to develop a county-wide health/wellness coalition! Lunch provided.

For more information or to R.S.V.P to the above event, please contact the Colusa County Tobacco Education Program at [TEP@ColusaDHHS.org](mailto:TEP@ColusaDHHS.org) or 530-458-0380.

## Resources

Interested in a meeting or community presentation to learn more about secondhand smoke, thirdhand smoke, tobacco marketing towards youth, or the Colusa County Tobacco Education Program? Contact us directly to schedule an appointment:

[Colusa County Tobacco Education Program](#)

Contact: Amanda Pitts, Project Director

Phone: (530) 458-0380

<http://www.countyofcolusa.org/tobaccoeducation>

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Interested in quitting smoking?



<https://www.nobutts.org/>