



Smoking

- Around 28% of people in Wales smoke - 29% of men and 26% of women.¹ The figure for Britain as a whole is 25% (26% of men and 23% of women) ²
- Every year around 6000 smokers in Wales die as a result of their habit. Smoking causes about 30% of all cancer deaths in Wales, including around 84% of all lung cancer deaths, 17% of all heart disease deaths, and at least 80% of all deaths from bronchitis and emphysema ³
- The cost to the NHS in the UK of treating smoking-related illness is approximately £1.5 billion a year.⁴ In Wales this equates to around £80 million a year.
- Non-smokers exposed to second-hand smoke have a greater risk of lung cancer (24% greater) and heart disease (25%) than other non-smokers ⁵
- Research for the Assembly committee's report into a ban on smoking in public places estimated that a ban could lead to :
 - 253 fewer deaths in Wales from lung cancer and coronary heart disease
 - possibly 153 fewer deaths from stroke and respiratory illnesses
 - up to 180 fewer deaths if active smoking is reduced
- For the NHS, it was estimated that the ban could save anything from £3.5 to £10 million per year ⁶
- Helping smokers quit is good for health, and a very good use of valuable NHS resources. NICE guidelines are that up to around £30,000 per quality-adjusted life year (QALY) gained counts as an acceptable use of resources. Smoking cessation work costs only around £600 per QALY - it is delivering an enormous benefit for relatively little cost ³

References and links

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