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# ANNUAL AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION “STATE OF TOBACCO CONTROL” REPORT



## Statement from the Bureau of Tobacco Free Florida

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**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – On January 26, 2022, the American Lung Association (ALA) released its annual “State of Tobacco Control” report. The analysis scores federal and state tobacco-related policies, proposes specific legislative changes and assesses some of each state’s cessation and prevention efforts. Grades are assigned on various factors including state and federal funding levels.

Florida has succeeded in significantly reducing the tobacco use rate since Tobacco Free Florida’s creation in 2007. This progress has come despite the fact that – as noted in the ALA report – Florida’s tobacco cessation and prevention campaign is funded at a level far below the recommended minimum established in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Best Practices guide.<sup>1</sup> The office of the U.S. Surgeon General noted a comprehensive statewide tobacco control program, like Tobacco Free Florida greatly improves cessation and prevention efforts.<sup>2</sup>

ALA’s State of Tobacco Control highlighted several specific Tobacco Free Florida initiatives as being important cessation and prevention elements, stating “The Tobacco Free Florida program is committed to providing a variety of free services to assist individuals with smoking cessation. In addition to the \$13.8 million allocated for Quitline services and implementation of a referral program, the program dedicates an additional \$8 million for in-person cessation counseling.”

Tobacco Free Florida’s positive public health impact can be seen in many ways:

- Since Tobacco Free Florida launched in 2007, the adult cigarette smoking rate in the state has decreased from 21% in 2006 to 14.7% in 2020.<sup>3,4</sup>
- Fewer young people have started smoking since Tobacco Free Florida was created. The youth cigarette smoking rate has decreased from 10.6% in 2006 to just 1.1% in 2021 – a decrease of nearly 90%.<sup>5,6</sup>
- Since Tobacco Free Florida’s hard-hitting advertising launched, quit attempts across the state increased and the campaign has been linked to reducing relapses among those who quit. Exposure to the program’s message has also caused positive shifts in smokers’ attitudes towards quitting.<sup>7</sup>

The ALA annual report also advocated for changes that could improve Florida’s ongoing tobacco cessation and prevention efforts. In addition to increased funding for prevention and cessation programs, the report recommends local tobacco policies that regulate retailers and ensure compliance and enforcement. It also commended Florida for its indoor clean air protections and called for the policy to be extended to standalone bars – a category currently exempted under Florida law.

Entering into its 15<sup>th</sup> year, Tobacco Free Florida remains committed to helping tobacco users quit, preventing youth from starting and helping to protect more Floridians from the dangers of secondhand smoke. Tobacco Free Florida was created in 2007 in response to an overwhelming vote across Florida, calling for the creation of a comprehensive program following the settlement agreement with major tobacco companies for their heavy toll on Florida's public health costs.

Tobacco Free Florida, a bureau of the Florida Department of Health, provides tools for Floridians considering quitting. The Quit Your Way program offers free [Phone Quit](#) and [Web Quit](#) services. [Group Quit](#) classes are also free and available for every county in Florida as well as virtually, and free nicotine replacement therapy such as gum, patches and lozenges can be provided where medically appropriate. Services can also be accessed by calling the toll-free number 1-877-U-CAN-NOW (1-877-822-6669) at any time.

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### **About Tobacco Free Florida**

The department's Tobacco Free Florida campaign is a statewide cessation and prevention campaign funded by Florida's tobacco settlement fund. Since the program began in 2007, more than 254,000 Floridians have successfully quit using one of Tobacco Free Florida's free tools and services. There are now approximately 451,000 fewer adult smokers in Florida than there was 10 years ago, and the state has saved \$17.7 billion in health care costs. To learn more about Tobacco Free Florida's Quit Your Way services, visit [www.tobaccofreeflorida.com](http://www.tobaccofreeflorida.com) or follow the campaign on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/TobaccoFreeFlorida](https://www.facebook.com/TobaccoFreeFlorida) or on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/tobaccofreefla](https://www.twitter.com/tobaccofreefla).

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<sup>1</sup> "State of Tobacco Control 2022." American Lung Association. <https://www.lung.org/research/sotc/state-grades/florida>. [accessed 27 January 2022].

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Smoking Cessation. A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2020.

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data. Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007.

<sup>4</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data. Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021.

<sup>5</sup> Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (FYTS), Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology, 2006.

<sup>6</sup> Florida Youth Tobacco Survey (FYTS), Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology, 2021.

<sup>7</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs—2014. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014.