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## Blog: Hess on Health Care

Hess on Health Care

### More Reasons To Welcome The Smoking Ban

Monday, June 14, 2010, 3:34pm CDT

We're less than one month away from the state smoking ban and a slew of new statistics have been released showing the new law couldn't come soon enough.

Milwaukee suffers 730 smoking-related deaths each year — a full 15 percent of the city's deaths overall — according to the [2010 Burden of Tobacco Report](#) recently released by the American Cancer Society and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

Besides killing us, smoking-related health care costs totaled \$300 million in Milwaukee in 2007, or \$498 per person. These costs include prescription drugs, ambulatory care and care in nursing homes and hospitals.

The cost of productivity lost in Milwaukee from 2003-07 due to smoking such as cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease and cancer totaled \$174 million, according to the report.

Wisconsin's smoke-free workplace law goes into effect July 5, prohibiting smoking in all workplaces, including centers and hotels.

**Categories:** [Health Care](#), [Retailing & Restaurants](#)

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