



American College of Cardiology

Position Statement

Smoking As A Health Hazard

[The following position statement was approved by the Board of Trustees of the American College of Cardiology on October 11, 1992. Reprints are available from: Educational Products Sales and Marketing; 9111 Old Georgetown Road; Bethesda, MD 20814; 800/257-4740.]

On the basis of extensive published scientific and clinical evidence, the American College of Cardiology affirms that:

- Smoking is a leading cause of the most common forms of heart and vascular disease, major lung diseases, and some of the most common forms of cancer; it is also a cause of other significant diseases.
- Smoking aggravates the symptoms and the progression of heart, vascular, lung and other serious diseases.
- Passive or involuntary smoking and smokeless tobacco share many of these adverse effects upon health.
- Adverse effects from smoking and smoke exposure occur throughout the life span, from the womb to far advanced years.
- Smoking cessation yields important health benefits -- both immediate and long term benefits - at any age.
- Tobacco products are addictive.
- Avoidance of smoking is important.

Because smoking is an important heart health and overall health hazard, the American College of Cardiology strongly:

- Supports responsible steps that will lead to avoidance or stopping the use of tobacco products and the avoidance of passive smoking through:
 - support of the objectives on tobacco and smoking of the Healthy People 2000

- initiative of the U.S. Public Health Service; support of coalitions against smoking;
- support of American Medical Association anti-smoking programs;
 - initiation and/or support of other specific actions from time to time; as well as:
 - continuation of the no smoking policies at College meetings and headquarters.
- Encourages its chapters to support similar actions at the state level.

 - Encourages its membership, in collaboration with other health care professionals, to work toward these goals with their patients and in their healthcare settings, as well as broadly in their communities and society.