

Smoking Gun

- There are 50 million smokers in the U.S., 27 percent of the adult population, down from 44 percent in 1949 (the peak year).
- Annual sales of cigarettes in the U.S. amount to \$45 billion—about 500 billion cigarettes.
- 426,000 people are directly employed by the U.S. tobacco industry, and another 1.3 million people owe their jobs, directly or indirectly, to the sale of tobacco in this country.
- 87 percent of lung cancer deaths are a direct result of cigarette smoking.
- Each day 3,000 teenagers smoke their first cigarette.
- The average smoker loses 3.6 to 7.2 years of life due to his habit.
- Approximately 1.3 million people try to quit smoking each year.
- There are 3,800 chemical compounds in every pack of tobacco, and 43 of them are known carcinogens. Among the compounds are carbon monoxide (as in car exhaust), formaldehyde (used as a cadaver preservative) and hydrogen cyanide (used in gas chambers).