

References for Tobacco Statistics Included in Tobacco Warning: The "Gateway Drug"

- ! Tobacco use is the number one preventable cause of death in the United States, causing 1 out of every 5 deaths, or about 400,000 deaths in the U.S. every year. This is more than alcohol, drugs, firearms, murders, suicides, motor vehicles, and AIDS combined.

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1994; JAMA 1993)

- ! In 1995, tobacco use prematurely killed 1,223 Utahns. 462 of these deaths were due to cardiovascular disease, 393 were due to respiratory infections, and 347 were due to cancer.

(SAMMEC, Utah Department of Health, 1997)

- ! In 1997, an estimated 14 percent of all adults and 15 percent of all youth in Utah used tobacco products.

(Utah Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 1997)

- ! Tobacco is generally the first substance used by those young people who use alcohol, marijuana and other drugs.

(U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Preventing Tobacco Use Among People: A Report of the Surgeon General*, 1994)

- ! Youths ages 12 to 17 who smoke are about 8 times as likely to use illicit drugs and 11 times as likely to drink heavily as nonsmoking youths.

(SAMHSA. 1995 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, Tobacco Related Statistics, August 1996)

- ! Babies born to women who smoke weigh an average of 6 ounces less than babies of non-smoking women and tend to be smaller during childhood.

(American Cancer Society. *Why Start Life Under a Cloud?* 1992)