In January, the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement released an estimate of smoking-attributable costs to Medicaid of $795 million annually.

The estimate used data from the Arkansas All-Payer Claims Database (APCD), updating a previous estimate from the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids of $293.1 million annually.

Because of interest from the private sector, ACHI developed an estimate of smoking-attributable costs in the private insurance market in Arkansas for individuals ages 30–65 in the APCD.¹

- The estimate does not account for smoking-attributable costs associated with pregnancy-related conditions, pre-term delivery, neonatal care, or childhood conditions triggered by smoking.

- The estimate does not include costs for employers with self-funded health insurance plans.

To address smoking-attributable costs, large employers including state agencies, higher education institutions, and municipalities, are incentivizing employees to quit smoking through tiered health insurance premiums and other programs.

1 Individuals with private insurance coverage ages 30–65 with a smoking-attributable condition were identified.
2 Enrollees may have more than one condition but were only attributed to the condition with the highest smoking-attributable risk.

*Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
**Cardiovascular disease