Tobacco and Obesity Prevention Under ACA

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Tobacco

Cigarette smoking causes about 1 of every 5 deaths in the United States each year.
443,000 deaths annually (including deaths from secondhand smoke)
49,400 deaths per year from secondhand smoke exposure
269,655 deaths annually among men
173,940 deaths annually among women
Affordable Care?

Tobacco

- 160,848 cancer deaths;
- 128,497 cardiovascular deaths
- 103,338 respiratory disease deaths
- More women will die from lung cancer in 2012 than from breast cancer (46,842 vs 39,510).

Sources: CDC and National Cancer Institute
Affordable Care?

Tobacco

- Total annual public and private health care expenditures caused by smoking: $96 billion.
- Annual health care expenditures solely from secondhand smoke exposure: $4.98 billion.
- Productivity losses caused by smoking each year: $97 billion.
An estimated 300,000 deaths per year may be attributable to obesity. Increases risks for:

- Coronary heart disease
- Type 2 diabetes
- Cancers (endometrial, breast, prostate, kidney and colon)
- Hypertension (high blood pressure)
- Stroke
- Liver and Gallbladder disease
- Sleep apnea and respiratory problems
- Osteoarthritis (a degeneration of cartilage and its underlying bone within a joint)
The medical care costs of obesity in the United States are staggering. In 2008 dollars, these costs totaled about $147 billion.

The U.S. is expected to spend $344 billion on health care costs attributable to obesity in 2018 if rates continue to increase at the rates seen in 2009.
Affordable Care? . . . ACT!

- ACA has prioritized tobacco and obesity prevention efforts because . . . it HAS to if it is going to work!

- But is there enough prevention to make care more affordable?
ACA Tobacco /Obesity Provisions

- Sec. 2502 – Eliminates exclusion of prescription tobacco cessation medication from Medicaid program.

  Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services expanded coverage of tobacco cessation counseling to all Medicare recipients (and Rxs available under Part D).

- Sec. 4107 – Coverage of Comprehensive Tobacco Cessation Services for Pregnant Women in Medicaid. Includes cessation counseling sessions and prescription coverage without cost-sharing.

- Other Medicaid populations, which use tobacco at a rate 14% above non-Medicaid populations, do not have any increased tobacco prevention benefit under Medicaid.
Sec. 4108 – $100 million funding for block grants to state Medicaid programs for prevention work 2012–2017.
  ◦ 9 states awarded grants.

Sec. 4201 – Community Transformation Grants via CDC $103 million to 61 state and community entities to encourage healthy communities.
  ◦ Includes smoking and obesity prevention as program goals.

Sec. 4205 – Menu labeling at chain restaurants.
Sec. 4206 – Individualized Wellness Plan demonstration Project Pilot Program may address smoking and obesity prevention
  ◦ 10 community health centers to receive awards.
Sec. 4306 – $50 million for childhood obesity demonstration project funding.
5316 – National Diabetes Prevention Program for high risk populations through CDC.
What will it mean?

- Tobacco and obesity prevention become more deeply enmeshed in health care and community prevention.
- Increased professional support for those working in these prevention areas.
- New approaches for prevention will be tested and established.
What it won’t mean

- Changes in the tobacco and obesity industries’ corporate practices and predatory marketing of products that cause chronic disease.

- Those changes would really help to make care affordable.