Average State Cigarette Tax: $1.45 per Pack
Average Cigarette Tax in Major Tobacco States: 48.5 cents per Pack
Average Cigarette Tax in Non-Tobacco States: $1.57 per Pack

Map shows state cigarette tax rates in effect now and those that will go into effect through July 1, 2010 (HI, NM, NY, SC, and UT). The three states that have not increased their cigarette tax rate since 1999 or earlier are marked in bold. Currently, 29 states, DC, Puerto Rico, the Northern Marianas, and Guam have cigarette tax rates of $1.00 per pack or higher; 14 states, DC, and Guam have cigarette tax rates of $2.00 per pack or higher; five states and Guam have cigarette tax rates of $3.00 per pack or higher; and one state (NY) has a cigarette tax rate more than $4.00 per pack. The state averages listed above, do not include Puerto Rico (with a population larger than those in 20 states) or any of the U.S. territories (such as Guam). The major tobacco states with extensive tobacco farming and, often, cigarette manufacturing, are NC, KY, VA, SC, TN, & GA. Federal cigarette tax is $1.01 per pack. Not shown are the special taxes or fees some states place on cigarettes made by Non-Participating Manufacturers (NPMs), the companies that have not joined the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) between the states and the major cigarette companies. Some local governments also have their own cigarette taxes, such as Chicago (68¢), Cook County, IL ($2.00), New York City ($1.50), and Anchorage, AK ($1.452). The U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention estimates that smoking-caused health costs and productivity losses total $10.28 per pack sold.

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, June 23, 2010 / Ann Boonn

For more information on state cigarette taxes and the benefits from increasing them, see http://tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/index.php?CategoryId=18 and http://tobaccofreekids.org/reports/prices.