

US funds new tobacco regulation research centers

September 20 2013



14 centers across the country awarded \$53 million at start.

(HealthDay)—A new program creating 14 first-of-a-kind research centers for tobacco regulation in the United States was announced by the federal government on Thursday.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. National Institutes of Health awarded a total of up to \$53 million to the 14 centers for the first year, with a potential sum of more than \$273 million over the next five years.

Despite decades of work to reduce [tobacco use](#), smoking continues to be the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States. The new Tobacco Centers of Regulatory Science will conduct research to help in the development and evaluation of tobacco product regulations meant to protect public health.

Researchers will focus on seven specific areas: diversity of tobacco

products, reducing addiction, reducing toxicity and carcinogenicity, harmful [health consequences](#), communications, marketing of tobacco products, and economics and policies.

The program will be coordinated by the NIH's Office of Disease Prevention and administered by three NIH institutes: the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

The program will "bring science-based regulation to the manufacturing, marketing and distribution of tobacco products," FDA commissioner Dr. Margaret Hamburg said in an FDA news release.

The agency is also establishing science and research programs designed to increase understanding of the risks associated with tobacco use.

"While we've made tremendous strides in reducing the use of [tobacco products](#) in the U.S., smoking still accounts for one in five deaths each year, which is far too many," NIH director Dr. Francis Collins said in the news release.

More information: The U.S. National Library of Medicine outlines the [risks of tobacco](#).

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Citation: US funds new tobacco regulation research centers (2013, September 20) retrieved 6 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-09-funds-tobacco-centers.html>

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