

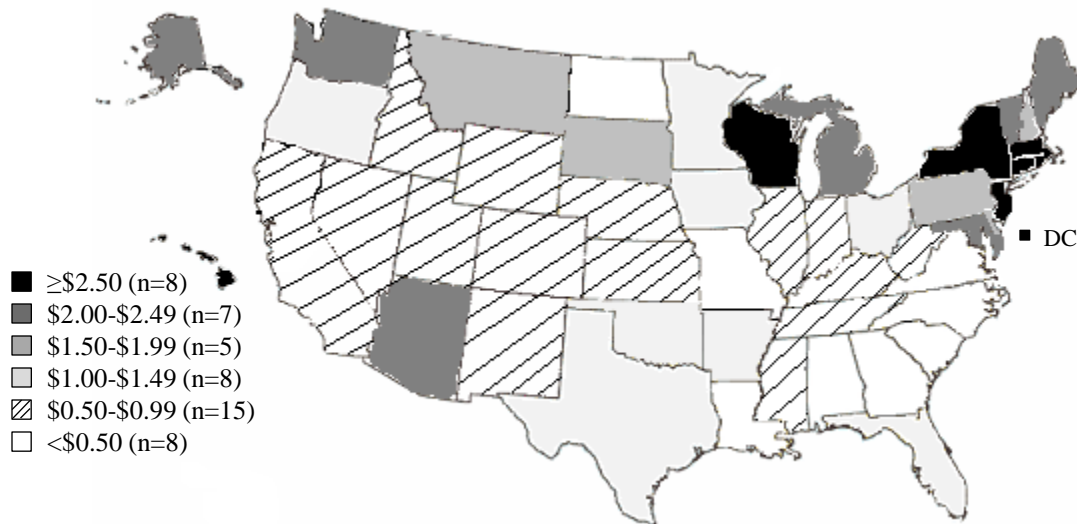
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Cigarette Excise Tax Increases Enacted in 15 States in 2009; Four States Have Not Increased Cigarette Taxes in More Than a Decade

Fifteen states enacted cigarette excise tax increases in 2009, according to a report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These increases resulted in cigarette excise taxes that ranged from \$0.07 per pack in South Carolina to \$3.46 per pack in Rhode Island (see figure below). However, despite the fact that “increasing cigarette excise taxes is one of the most effective tobacco control policies because it directly increases cigarette prices, thereby reducing cigarette use and smoking-related death and disease,” four states had not increased their cigarette tax in more than a decade as of December 31, 2009—California (not increased since 1998), Missouri and North Dakota (not since 1993), and South Carolina* (not since 1977). In addition, cigarette tax rates in tobacco-growing and bordering southeastern states remain substantially lower than the rest of the country. The mean tax rate (as of December 31, 2009) in the major tobacco growing states of Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia was \$0.40 per pack, compared to a mean of \$1.46 per pack in the other states.

State Cigarette Excise Tax per Pack of 20 Cigarettes, United States, December 31, 2009



*The South Carolina House and Senate recently voted to raise the cigarette tax by 50 cents per pack. The bill was vetoed by the Governor, but the veto was overridden by the SC Senate on 5/13/10.

NOTES: Data from CDC’s State Tobacco Activities and Evaluation (STATE) system database. Does not include local taxes; approximately 460 communities impose a local tax on cigarettes.
States with cigarette excise tax per pack of ≥\$2.50 are CT, DC, HI, MA, NJ, NY, RI, WI; \$2.00-\$2.49: AK, AZ, MD, ME, MI, VT, WA; \$1.50-\$1.99: DE, MT, NH, PA, SD; \$1.00-\$1.49: AR, FL, IA, MN, OH, OK, OR, TX; \$0.50-\$0.99: CA, CO, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, MS, NE, NM, NV, TN, UT, WV, WY; <\$0.50: AL, GA, LA, MO, NC, ND, SC, VA.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “State Cigarette Excise Taxes—United States, 2009,” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 59(13):385-388, 2010. Available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5913a1.htm>.