Smoking stats more startling than expected

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Despite the negative health implications of smoking tobacco, millions of people continue to light up each and every day. While past generations may have been able to claim ignorance as to the effects smoking has on the body, nowadays ignorance is no excuse.

Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that around 20 percent of Americans over the age of 18 currently smoke. Thousands of people lose their lives to health problems due to cigarette smoking every year.

Roughly 10 million cigarettes are sold every minute around the world, and CBS News Canada reports men and women age 18 to 34 are the segment of society most likely to smoke, as 28 percent of people in that age bracket smoke tobacco. Rehashing the effects of smoking on the body may help to inspire a new crop of smokers to quit.

- —Most lung cancer cases are attributed to cigarette smoking. Information from ReadytoQuit.co
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 percent of lung cancer cases in men and 80 percent in women can be traced back to smoking.
- —Coronary heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States and the leading smoking-related cause of death.
- —Cigarette smoking has been identified as the most important source of preventable morbidity and premature mortality around the world.
- —Smoking-related diseases cause an estimated 440,000 American deaths each year, and tobacco kills an estimated 45,000 Canadians a year, says the Canadian Lung Association.
- —A 2004 Study by the CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion found that cigarette smoke contains more than 4,800 chemicals, 69 of which are known to cause cancer.

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