

## **PART II**

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*Evidence of the  
Relation Between Smoking  
and Health*

## Chapter 5

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Consumption of  
Tobacco Products in  
the United States

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### CONSUMPTION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN THE UNITED STATES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that the total number of persons in the United States, including overseas members of the Armed Forces, who consume tobacco on a regular basis is close to 70 million (1).

Consumption of tobacco products per capita, 15 years and over, has risen from 7.42 pounds in 1900 to 10.85 pounds in 1962. Cigarette consumption increased steadily from 1910, when the per capita consumption was cigarettes, to the 1962 figure of 3,958. Per capita cigar consumption remained steady at slightly over 100 in the first two decades of the century, but started to decrease in 1921. The figure for 1920 is 117, and for 1962 it is 55. Per capita consumption of pipe tobacco remained steady until the mid-1940's. In 1945 the figure was 1.59 pounds, but in 1962 it was just over half a pound (0.56). Consumption of chewing tobacco showed a decline during about the same period, from 1.09 pounds per capita in 1945 to 0.50 in 1962. Consumption of snuff has shown very little change (2) (Table 1).

Starting in 1950, production of filter tip cigarettes began to rise. Unofficial estimates for 1950 show that only about half of one percent of cigarettes produced were filter tip. In 1952, unofficial estimates show 1.3 percent of cigarettes produced were filter tips. In 1956 the figure had reached 27.6 percent. From 1958 on, official estimates, based on figures reported to the Department of Agriculture by the industry, show a continuous increase from 45.3 percent filter tip cigarettes produced in 1958 to 54.6 percent produced in 1962 (3) (Table 2).

TABLE I.—Consumption of tobacco products per person aged 15 years and over in the United States for selected years, 1900–1962

Year	All tobacco, pounds	Cigarettes, number	Cigars, number	Pipe tobacco, pounds	Chewing tobacco, pounds	Snuff, pounds
1900.....	7.42	49	111	1.63	4.10	0.32
1910.....	8.59	138	113	2.58	3.99	.50
1920.....	8.66	611	117	1.96	3.06	.50
1930.....	8.88	1,365	72	1.87	1.90	.46
1940.....	8.91	1,828	56	2.05	1.00	.38
1950.....	11.59	3,322	50	.94	.78	.36
1960.....	10.97	3,888	57	.59	.51	.29
1961.....	11.15	3,986	56	.59	.51	.27
1962.....	10.85	3,958	55	.56	.50	.26

Source: Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service.

TABLE 2.—Estimated output of filter-tip cigarettes and percentage of total cigarette production, United States, 1950–1962

Year	Filter-tip cigarettes (billions)	Percent of total	Year	Filter-tip cigarettes (billions)	Percent of total
1950.....	2.2	0.6	1957.....	168.3	38.0
1951.....	3.0	0.7	1958*	213.0	45.3
1952.....	5.0	1.3	1959.....	238.8	48.7
1953.....	12.4	2.9	1960.....	258.0	50.9
1954.....	36.9	9.2	1961.....	277.1	52.5
1955.....	77.0	18.7	1962.....	292.5	54.6
1956.....	116.9	27.6			

\*Data from 1958 through 1962 are official estimates from *Census of Manufacturers*.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service.

## REFERENCES

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2. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Economic Research Service. Tobacco products. Consumption per capita, 15 years and over, United States,
3. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Economic Research Service. The tobacco situation. March 1962, March 1943, September 1963.