

North Dakota

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No. 1 in funding tobacco programs

A coalition of public health organizations says North Dakota is No. 1 in the nation in funding programs to prevent children from smoking and to help smokers quit. South Dakota isn't far behind.

The report says North Dakota spends \$9.5 million each year on tobacco prevention and cessation programs, meeting the funding level recommended by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. North Dakota and Alaska are the only states that fund tobacco programs at CDC-recommended levels.

The report was released by groups including the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association and the American Cancer Society.

South Dakota ranked 13th in funding tobacco programs. The report says the state spends \$4 million each year, about one-third of what the CDC recommends.

— Associated Press