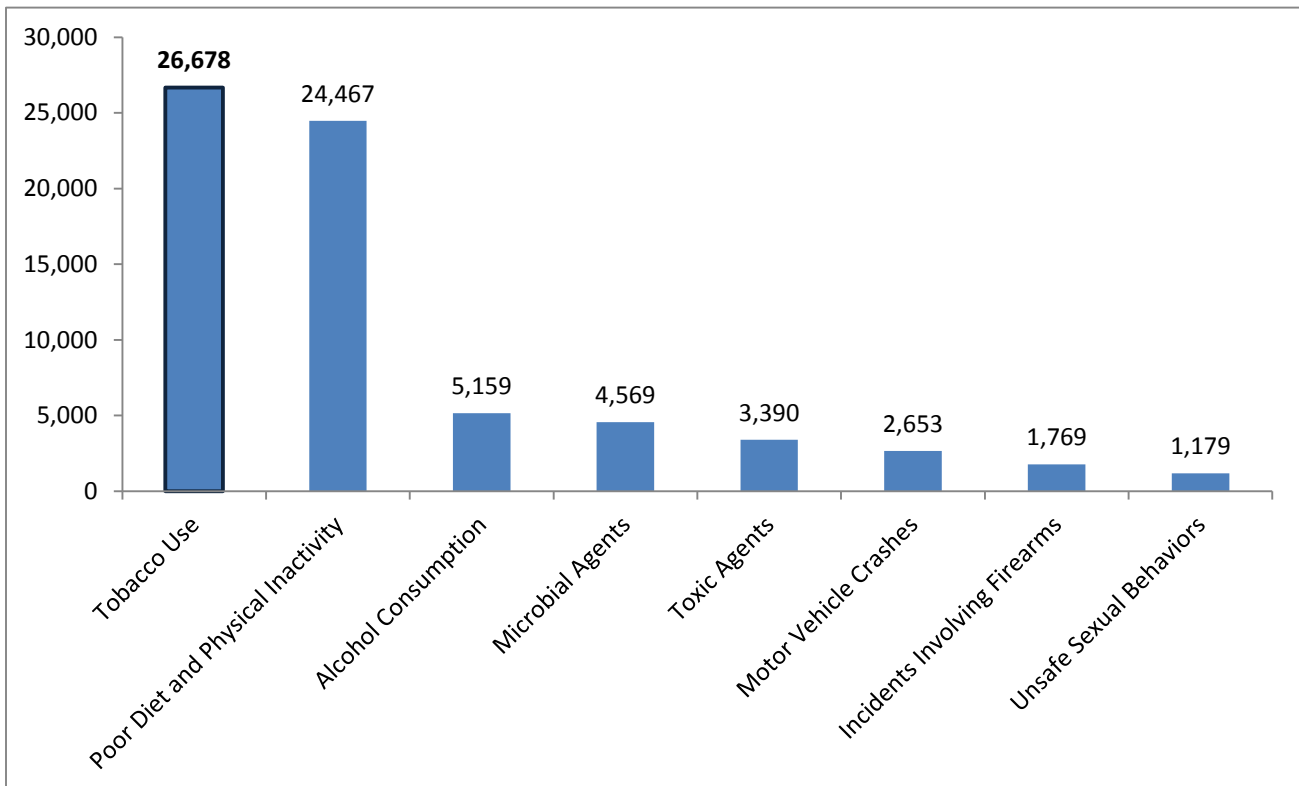


## Tobacco is the Leading Cause of Preventable Death

Since the original Surgeon General’s Report on smoking and health in 1964 highlighted the link between tobacco use and lung cancer, substantial progress has been made to decrease tobacco use prevalence in New York State. However, despite comprehensive smoke-free policies, high federal and state taxes, and powerful media campaigns, tobacco remains the primary cause of preventable death in the state, claiming between 26,000 and 28,200 lives annually.<sup>1, 2</sup>

- Preventable deaths due to the leading eight causes listed below comprised 47% of all deaths for 2012.
- Of the preventable deaths listed below, 38% resulted from tobacco use.
- Tobacco use, poor diet, and physical inactivity resulted in more deaths than alcohol consumption, microbial agents, toxic agents, motor vehicle crashes, incidents involving firearms, and unsafe sexual behaviors combined.

### Estimated Number of Deaths due to Preventable Causes, New York State, 2012



Source: 1. Estimates were extrapolated using the results published in "Actual Causes of Death in the United States, 2000", JAMA, March 2004, 291 (10) and NYS 2012 Vital Statistics data. 2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs — 2014. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014. Contact the Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research, New York State Department of Health at (518) 473-0673 or type 'StatShot' in the subject line of an e-mail and send it to [tcp@health.state.ny.us](mailto:tcp@health.state.ny.us). StatShots can be accessed online at [http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/tobacco\\_control/reports/statshots/](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/tobacco_control/reports/statshots/)