

MPAA member companies had a year to solve Hollywood's most toxic problem. Only a few days remain.

Nine decades after Big Tobacco started exploiting movies, we gave the major studios a year to start R-rating movies with smoking. It wasn't their first chance:

2003 The studios first heard the R-rating for smoking proposed fifteen years ago, at a special Los Angeles briefing attended by the major studios' production chiefs, state Attorneys General, and health researchers. The studios took no action.

2007 Harvard School of Public Health, commissioned by the MPAA to recommend a solution to the risks posed by on-screen smoking, tells the studios to "take effective action to eliminate depictions of tobacco smoking from films accessible to children and youths, and take leadership and credit for doing so." The studios didn't do it.

2009 Thirty-three state Attorneys General told the studios, "It is clear that every time the industry releases another movie that depicts smoking, it does so with the full knowledge of the deadly harm it will bring to children who watch it." By this time, the MPAA claimed that it "considered" smoking as a rating factor. But MPAA/NATO's official *Rating Rules* didn't even mention tobacco or smoking—and they still don't.

2012 The US Surgeon General concluded, in the strongest possible language, that exposure to on-screen smoking "causes" young people to start smoking and reported that an R-rating would reduce youth smoking.



Tobacco in PG-13 films, 2003-2017

	PG-13 films with smoking (% of all top-grossing PG-13 films)	Tobacco incidents	Audience impressions
Comcast	68 (54%)	2,330	21.9 billion
Disney	27 (38%)	700	11.7 billion
Fox	69 (56%)	1,640	16.2 billion
Sony	102 (65%)	2,600	25.9 billion
Time Warner	74 (47%)	2,075	28.3 billion
Viacom	55 (56%)	1,575	22.0 billion
Independents	141 (59%)	3,960	18.9 billion
TOTAL	590 (56%)	14,880	144.8 billion

Domestic, in-theater tobacco impressions, not including home media. In addition, 102 top-grossing G/PG films with 1,490 tobacco incidents delivered 10.9 billion audience impressions. Source: Breathe California Onscreen Tobacco Database

2013 The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) began posting annual data on smoking in US top-grossing films, by distribution company. With smoking on the rise in PG-13 films, the CDC observed that "individual company policies alone have not been shown to be efficient at minimizing smoking in movies."

2014 The US Surgeon General reports that R-rating future movies with tobacco imagery can be expected to reduce youth smoking by 18 percent. The CDC projects the R-rating would avert one million future tobacco deaths among US children alive today.

2016 The World Health Organization (the UN's health arm) advised 180 countries and territories party to the global Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, the world's first health treaty, that to stop tobacco promotion they must address entertainment products, including films. Policy tools include adult film ratings and making media productions with tobacco ineligible for public subsidies.

2017 Reacting to a CDC report that the US film industry, as a whole, had made no progress against toxic tobacco content since 2010, US medical and public health groups started a one-year countdown for the industry to adopt the R-rating for future films with smoking. The June 1, 2018, deadline is now just days away.

On-screen smoking is toxic to kids. It's reasonable and effective to update the film industry's voluntary ratings to protect kids' lives—not preserve the deadly status quo. R-rate future films with smoking, except those that exclusively depict smoking by actual people who smoked (as in documentaries and biopics) or that realistically depict the health consequences of tobacco use.

One little letter **R** will save a million lives.

This public health statement is endorsed by:

- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Cancer Society
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

- American College of Physicians
- American Heart Association
- American Lung Association
- American Medical Association
- American Public Health Association
- Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights

- Assoc. of State and Territorial Health Officials
- Breathe California Sacramento Region
- Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
- Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Health
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View the CDC's latest tracking report on movie smoking (April 2018) ► bit.ly/cdc-smokingmovies-2018