New Batch of Graphic Anti-Smoking Ads

Health officials hope to get thousands to quit

(AP) — Government health officials have launched the second round of a graphic ad campaign that is designed to get smokers off tobacco, saying they believe the last effort convinced tens of thousands to quit.

The ads feature sad, real-life stories: There is Terrie, a North Carolina woman who lost her voice box. Bill, a diabetic smoker from Michigan who lost his leg. And Aden, a 7-year-old boy from New York, who has asthma attacks from secondhand smoke.

"Most smokers want to quit. These ads encourage them to try," said Dr. Tom Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The CDC campaign cost \$48 million and includes TV, radio and online spots as well as print ads and billboards.

The spending comes as the agency is facing a tough budget squeeze, but officials say the ads should more than pay for themselves by averting future medical costs to society. Smoking is the leading cause of preventable illness and death in the United States. It's responsible for the majority of the nation's lung cancer deaths and is a deadly factor in heart attacks and a variety of other illnesses.

Last year's similar \$54 million campaign was the agency's first and largest national advertising effort. The government deemed it a success: That campaign triggered an increase of 200,000 calls to quit lines. The CDC believes that likely prompted tens of thousands of smokers to quit based on calculations that a certain percentage of callers do actually stop.

Like last year, the current 16-week campaign spotlights real people who were hurt and disfigured by smoking. Terrie Hall, a 52-year-old throat cancer survivor makes a repeat performance. She had her voice box removed about a dozen years ago.



A new public service advertising campaign designed to get people to quit smoking, features sad, real-life stories.

In last year's ad there's a photo of her as a youthful high school cheerleader. Then she is seen more recently putting on a wig, inserting false teeth and covering the hole in her neck with a scarf. It was, by far, the campaign's most popular spot, as judged by YouTube viewings and Web clicks.

In a new ad, Hall addresses the this one," her electric voice 16 when her mother died from growls.

One difference from last year: camera, speaking with the buzz- The new campaign tilts more toing sound of her electrolarynx. ward the impact smokers have on She advises smokers to make a others. One ad features a Kenvideo of themselves now, reading tucky high school student who a children's book or singing a suffers asthma attacks from being lullaby. "I wish I had. The only around cigarette smoke. Another voice my grandson's ever heard is has a Louisiana woman who was smoking-related causes.

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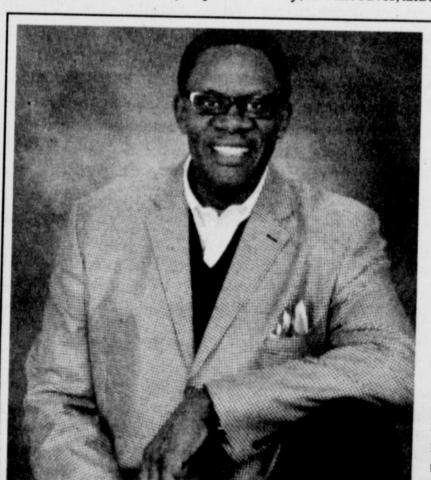
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