

GEOGRAPHY OF NORTH CAROLINA



North Carolina has a varied Geography from the beaches to the highest mountains in the Eastern United States.

Geography:

The study of human & physical features of the earth.

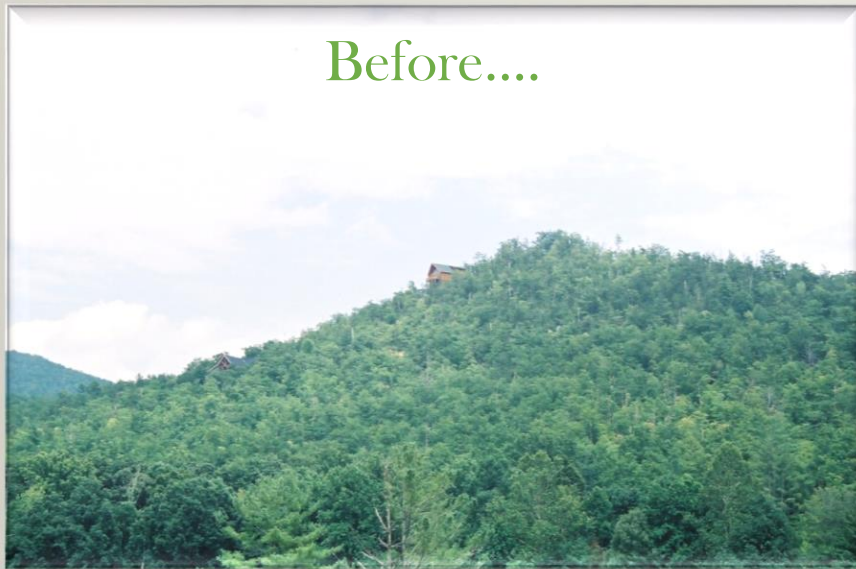


The geography of North Carolina has had a major influence on how the people live. People have also had a major impact on the geography of our state.

HOW???

People have drained swamps, clear cut forests, damming of rivers, and leveled hills and mountains.

Before....



After....



LOCATION

North Carolina's Relative location is the Southeastern United States.

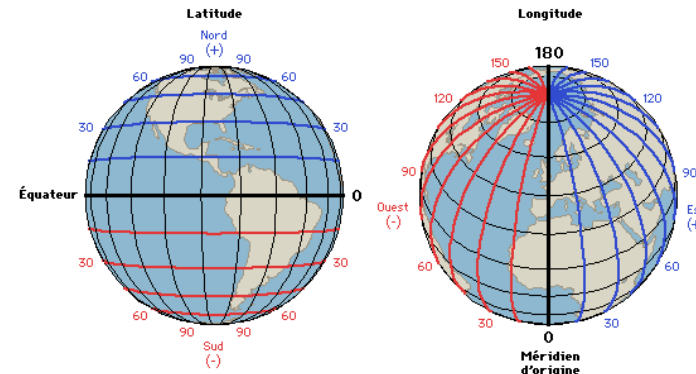
Relative location: close to something



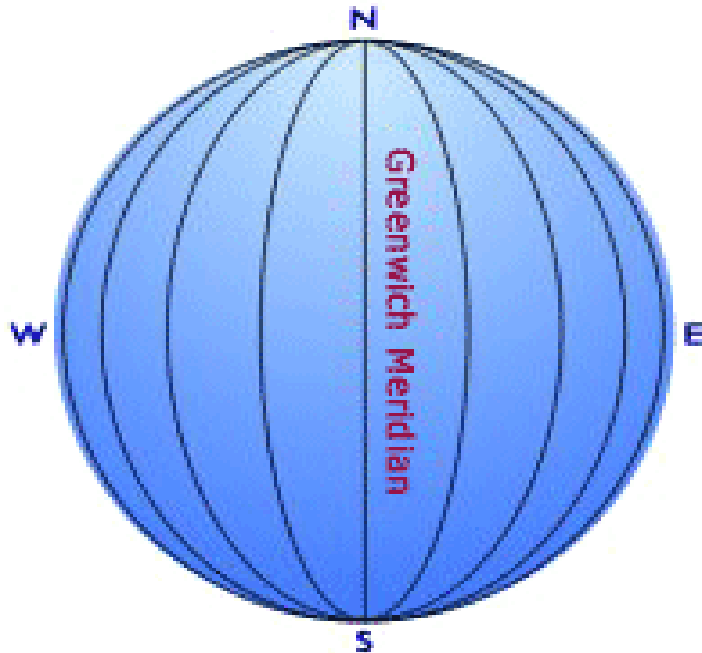
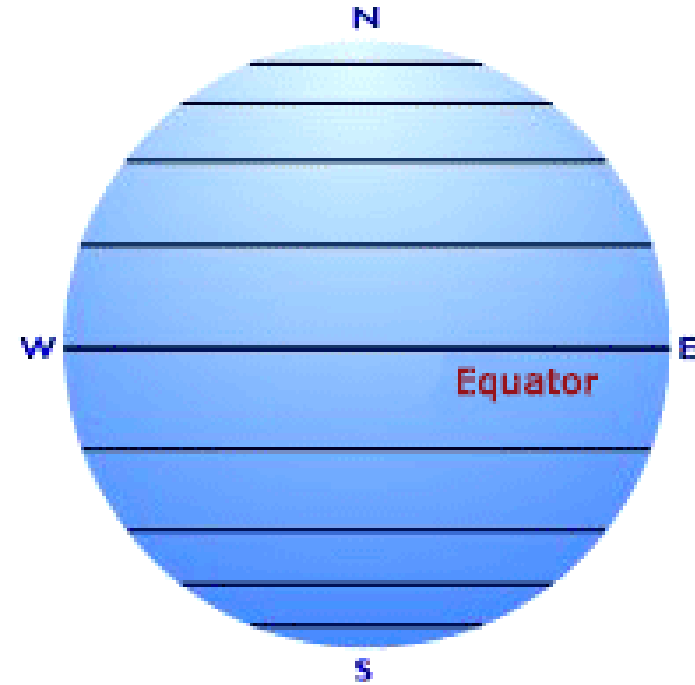
North Carolina's Absolute location is 34 degrees North Latitude and 75 degrees to 84 degrees West Longitude.

Absolute location: an exact location

What is meant by Latitude and Longitude?
How are they measured?



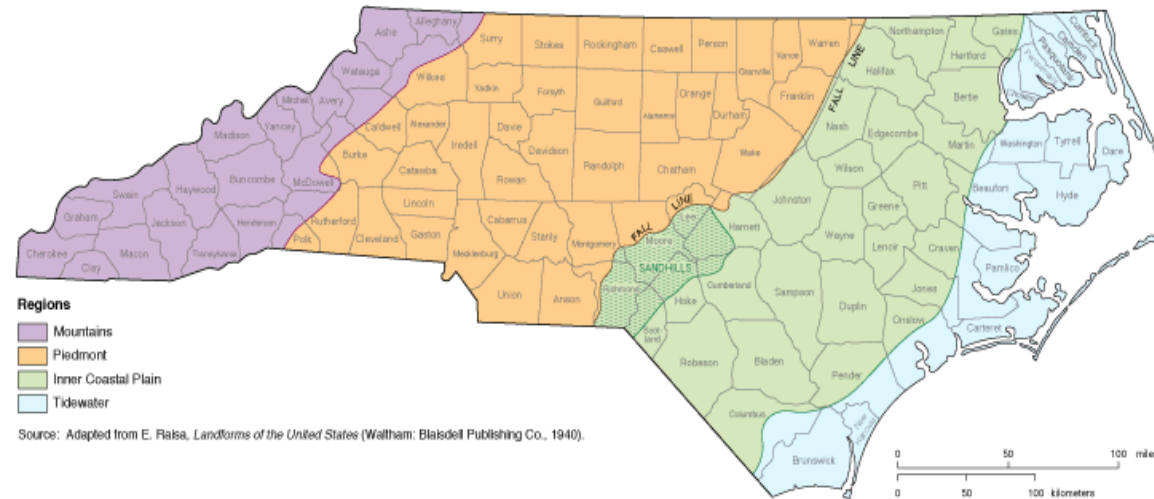
Latitude: measured in degrees North and South of the Equator which is 0 degrees latitude.



Longitude: measured in degrees East and West of the Prime Meridian which is 0 degrees longitude.

NORTH CAROLINA has 4 distinct regions:

Figure 2.1. Physical Regions

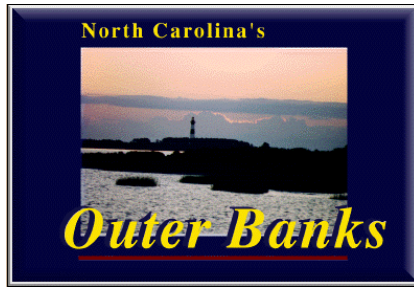


1. Mountains 2. Piedmont 3. Coastal Plain 4. Tidewater

Fall Line: an imaginary line that runs through NC, that marks where falls are first found on rivers. Also, where the sandy soil of the Coastal Plain gives way to the more rocky soil of the Piedmont. (*Separates the Piedmont from the Coastal Plain*)

North Carolina covers over 53,000 square miles and is about the size of England.

1. Tidewater- extends about 20 to 50 miles inland.



The tidewater is a series of islands called the “Outer Banks”



Part of these islands that jut out into the ocean are called Capes

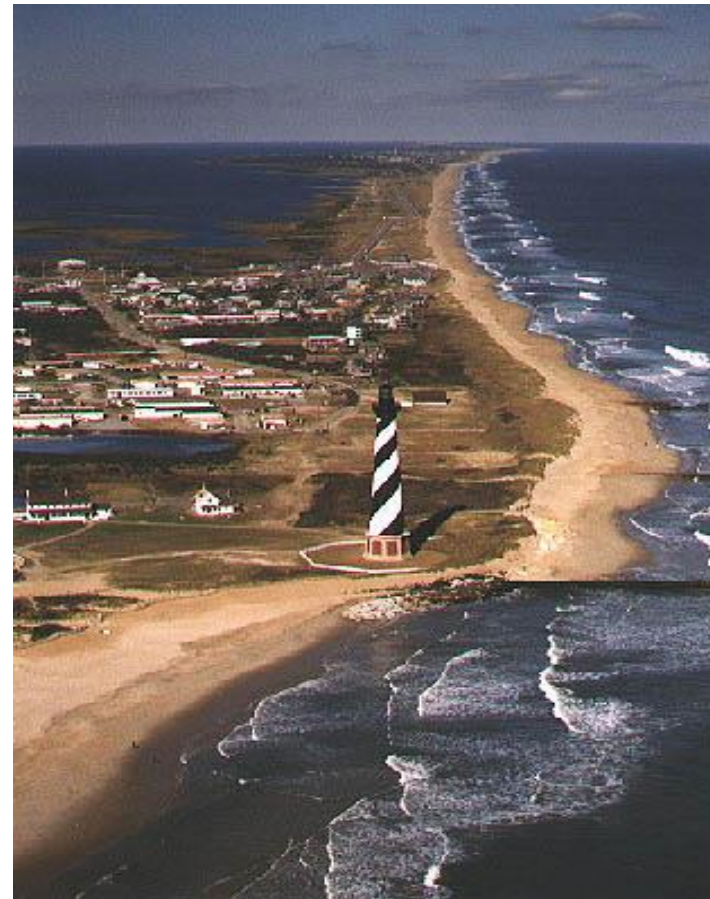
Capes: part of the coast that juts out into the ocean.

There are 3 Capes in North Carolina:

1. Cape Fear
2. Cape Lookout
3. Cape Hatteras

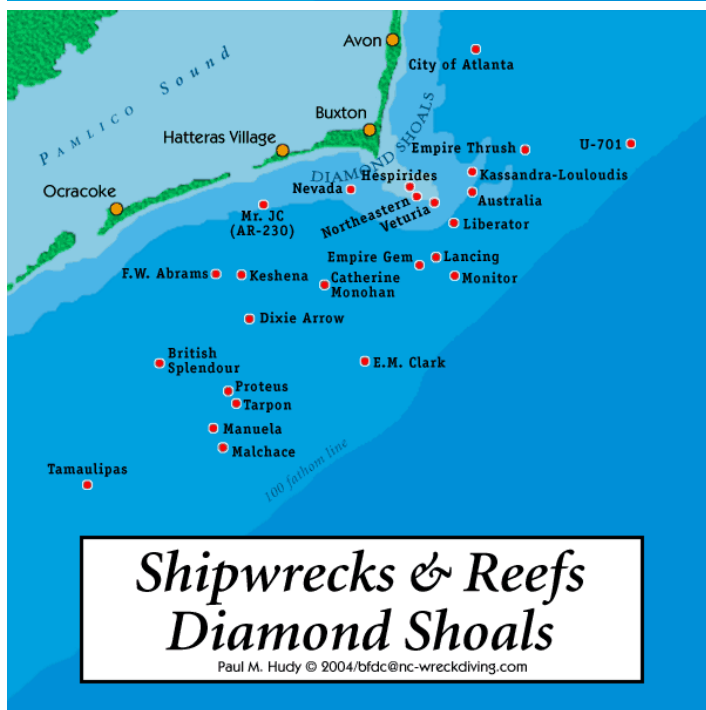
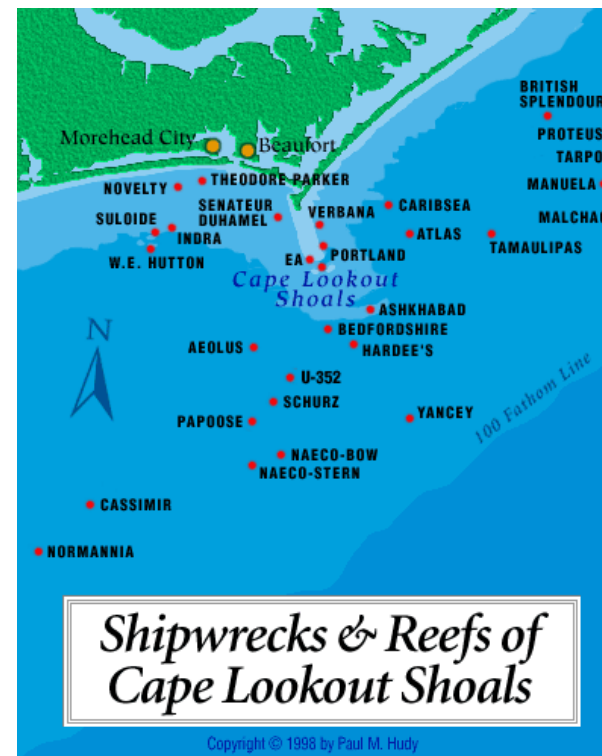
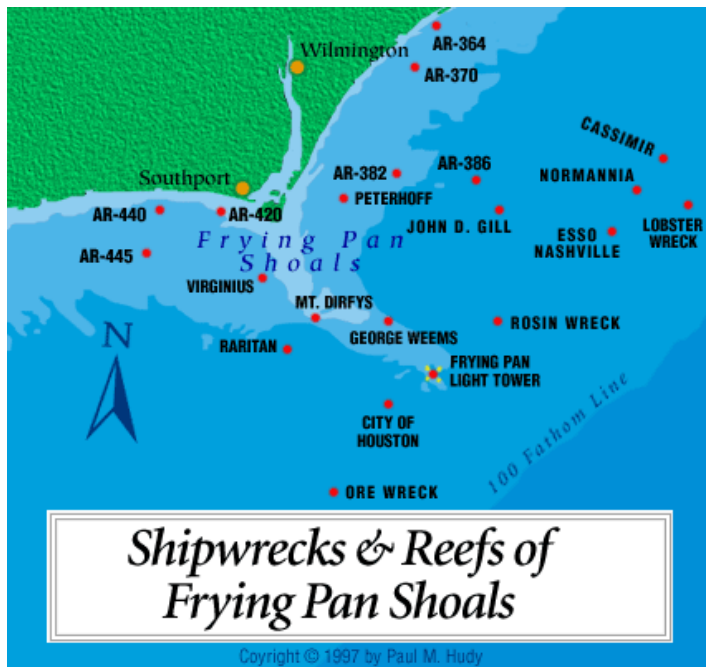


- Capes are characterized by shallow water.
- Many ships have run aground near Cape Hatteras.
- It is known as the Graveyard of the Atlantic.
- This area still remains known for its beauty and isolation.
- The Outer Banks “Barrier Islands” have many inlets.



Inlet → a break in a barrier island that allows ocean water to come in and out.

Did You Know? Locals in the tidewater region call outsiders “a dingbatter.”



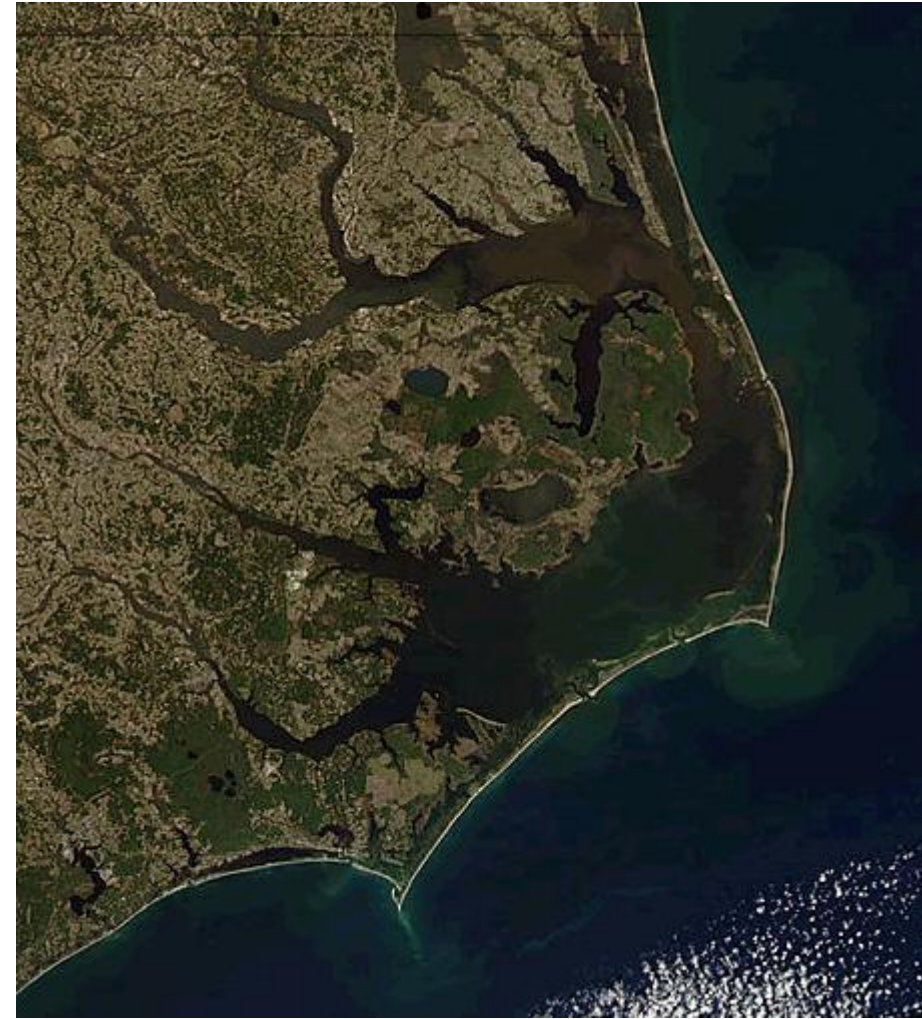
These maps show the many recorded shipwrecks and reefs located on the coast of North Carolina.

Across the Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds in the main tidewater region lie many swamps.

SOUNDS: Large inland body of water that contains a mixture of salt and fresh water (brackish).

A large portion of the tidewater is wetland.

Wetland: place where soil is soaked or flooded with water year round.



The Tidewater also has many swamps. WHY ARE SWAMPS IMPORTANT?

Tidewater also has a couple of major ports.

Wilmington and Morehead City

Why are these Ports important to North Carolina.



- Wilmington



- Morehead City

Tryon's Palace, located in New Bern and was the colonial capital of North Carolina.



Did You Know? New Bern is located on the Neuse River and Trent River. You can see the Trent from the back of Tryon Palace.

2. The Coastal Plain

The CP region contains 4 major military bases.

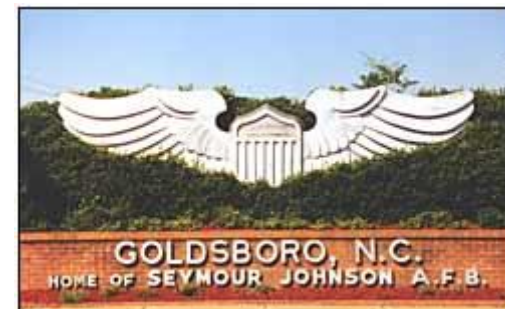
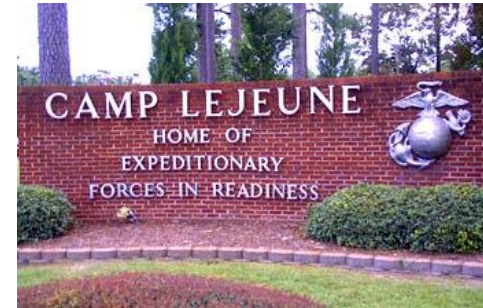
How does this impact NC?

*Economy

*Security

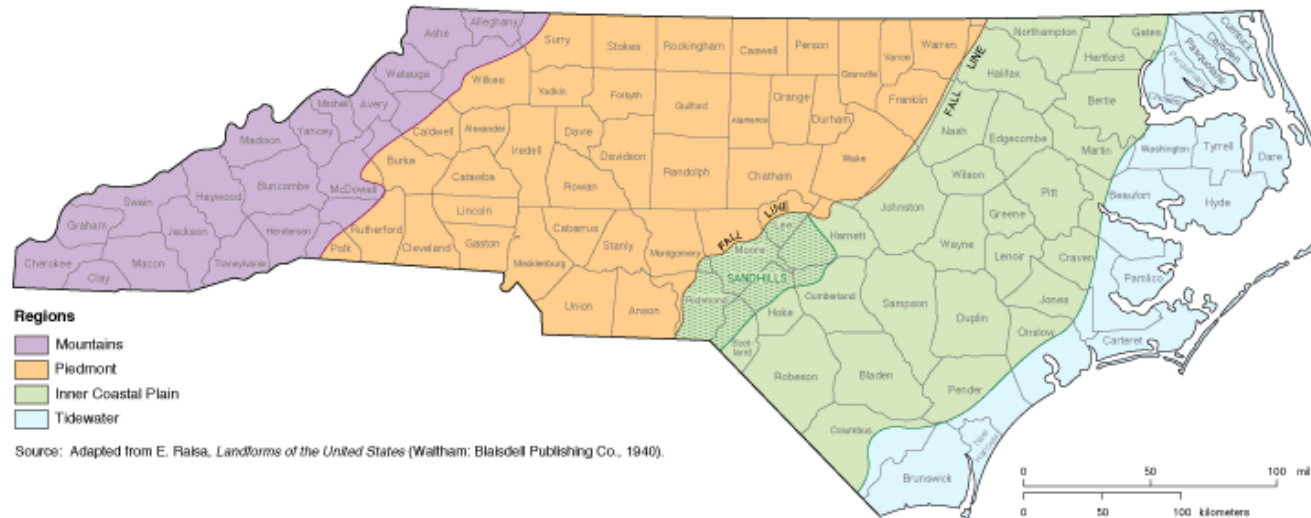
*Status

- Camp Lejeune
- Fort Bragg/ Pope Air Force Base
- Seymour Johnson Air Force Base
- Cherry Point Marine Corp Base



The Coastal Plain and Tidewater Region contain nearly 1/2 the states land.

Figure 2.1. Physical Regions



The map shows NC's 4 regions. The light green and light blue are the Coastal Plain and Tidewater Regions

The richest soil in the state is found in the Coastal Plain. For what major economic activity is this region known?

The CP also has some of the worst soil in the state- the Sand Hills.

The nation's oldest canal is located in this region in the Dismal Swamp.



Major phosphate deposits are found in the tidewater area; these are used to make fertilizers.



Coastal Plain:

Stretches from the tidewater to the fall line.

Sandy soil makes for the states best agriculture region.



- Tobacco
- Cotton
- Corn
- Wheat



are just a few of the crops grown here. This area is also known for **dairy and beef cattle**, along with **hogs and poultry** farms.



Tobacco Towns

Containing nearly 1/3 of NC's land and having very few urban areas, the CP is full of little Crossroads Hamlets



Crossroads Hamlet: Small towns that provide goods and services to nearby farmers.

Tobacco is the major cash crop of the CP Region

Throughout the 1900's everyone in rural NC schedule their business around tobacco harvest. Tobacco \$\$\$\$\$ was crucial in the development of NC.



Since the late 1990's these Tobacco Towns have dwindled due to the stigma and health risks that have become associated with tobacco use

