



Contact us: 208-334-0642

ID Tobacco Project Website: healthandwelfare.idaho.gov
Select the "medical" menu and then "Idaho Tobacco Permits"

2021 FACTS AND STATS

What was the Compliance Grade after last month's state tobacco inspections?

**Grade A
for
December 2021**

According to Idaho Code 39-5701, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare must inspect each Permitted Retailer that sells tobacco and electronic smoking devices to ensure that it does not sell these products to minors.

How well did these Permitted Retailers comply with the law in December 2021?

- 57 Permitted Retailers were inspected.*
- 4 Permitted Retailers sold to the inspecting minor.
- The compliance rate for December 2021 was

**92.98%
GREAT JOB!**

*Non-minor Exempt Inspections where purchase attempts were made.

A New Year's Plan to Turn Knowledge into Action

As we look toward a New Year, its important to reflect on why a retailer's commitment to prevent the sale of tobacco to underage customers is so important.

On our [website](#), we provide links to other agencies that share valuable information on the dangers of tobacco and electronic-smoking device use. These groups support our efforts to keep tobacco and electronic-smoking devices out of the reach of our kids. One of these resources, [Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids](#), collects data from various government agencies and survey groups to compile information on the toll tobacco and electronic-smoking device use is taking in Idaho.

The Human Toll

Here are some of the current statistics the highlight the human toll of tobacco and electronic-smoking device use in Idaho:

- 21.5 % of high school students use e-cigarettes
- 5.3% of high school student's smoke
- 5.6% of male high school student's smoke cigars
- 400 kids under 18 become new daily smokers each year
- 13.6% of adults in Idaho smoke
- 26.6% of cancer deaths in Idaho can be directly attributed to smoking
- 1,800 adults die each year from their own smoking
- 30,000 kids currently under 18 and alive in Idaho will ultimately die prematurely from smoking

These statistics can be concerning, but what is truly alarming is that smoking kills more people than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides combined.

The Financial Toll

Beyond the human toll, there are significant monetary cost for Idaho if the use of tobacco and electronic smoking devices go unchecked:

- \$508 million is spent in annual health care costs in Idaho directly caused by smoking
- \$100.5 million is spent on Medicaid costs caused by smoking in Idaho
- Each Idaho household spends \$901 per year in state and federal taxes to cover the smoking-caused expenditures
- \$433.9 million is lost in Idaho due to smoking-caused productivity losses

The financial statistics do not include health costs caused by exposure to secondhand smoke, smoking-caused fires, smokeless tobacco use, or cigar and pipe smoking. If those figures could be included the financial burdens to Idaho would be much greater.

Turning Knowledge to Action

While these statistics can help educate Idaho Tobacco Retailers, knowing about the toll on Idaho isn't enough. Retailers must actively refuse the sale to all underage customers to help turn the tide and reduce the tobacco and electronic-smoking device use by Idaho's youth.

The Tobacco Industries influence in Idaho is strong. It is estimated that \$8.4 billion dollars is spent by Tobacco Industry marketing nationwide each year, and that approximately \$45.6 million of that is spent directly in Idaho. This marketing directly impacts Idaho's youth. Published research studies have found that kids are twice as sensitive to tobacco advertising as adults and are more likely to be influenced to smoke by cigarette marketing than peer pressure. One-third of underage experimentation with smoking is attributable to tobacco company advertising. Being a retailer who sells tobacco and electronic-smoking devices to the public comes with significant responsibility to both the customer and the retailer's employees. **It's not easy, but the effort is worth it!**

A New Year's Resolution

As you begin this New Year, it is a perfect time to commit to making improvements in any areas of policy or process your Idaho Tobacco Retail location may need to implement. One way to do that is to ensure each location selling tobacco and electronic-smoking devices, and the staff who work there, are:

- properly and frequently trained by being
 - familiar with the state and federal law regarding the sale of tobacco and electronic smoking devices,
 - provided with and understand any company policies related to the sale of tobacco and electronic smoking devices,
 - aware of any consequences for selling to an underaged customer or inspecting minor (e.g., state issued fines, termination, or other consequence by employer, etc.)
- ready to always check ID for any customers who appear under the age of 30 or under an age cap required by company policy, and
- provided with helpful resources, like we card calendars, posters, age calculating cash registers, etc., that help clerks quickly determine the age of any customer without having to use math.

Together, we will continue to make a difference to reduce both the **human** and **financial toll** by preventing the sale of tobacco and electronic-smoking devices to all underage customers.



Need information on the Idaho tobacco law, training and point-of-sale resources, information about what IDs look like, a helpful quiz and game to practice when to refuse the sale of tobacco to a customer, and many other resources tailored to Idaho Tobacco Retailers? Check out our website designed just for Idaho Tobacco Retailers: Preventthesale.com/Idaho

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PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO EMPLOYEES