

Prevent the Sale!

Newsletter for Idaho Tobacco Retailers

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Sponsored by Idaho Department of Health & Welfare

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Increased Federal Taxes Reduce Smoking Rates

By Cheryl Dudley

Facts and Stats

“B” Average for MAY

According to Idaho Code 39-5701 the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare must inspect each business that sells tobacco to ensure that it does not sell tobacco to minors. In MAY 2009

- ❖ 209 Vendors were inspected.*
- ❖ 34 Vendors sold to the inspecting minor.
- ❖ The compliance rate for the month of May 2009 was 83.73%

*Inspections where purchase attempts were made.

Prevent the Sale Web site

www.preventthesale.com/idaho

- Learn about the law
- Take the tobacco quiz
- See what the ID's look like
- Play the Game "Would You Sell to This Person?"

Tobacco Prices and Youth Smoking Rates

There is a proven direct correlation between the cost of tobacco and the prevalence of smoking among youth. Even a slight increase in price corresponds with a decline in youth smoking rates.

In December 2008, the Goldman Sachs tobacco industry outlook for 2009 concluded that a 61-cent federal cigarette tax rate increase would reduce cigarette consumption in the USA by seven percent.

When the federal tobacco tax increase went into effect on April 1, 2009, state quitlines received record numbers of calls—including Idaho. As a matter of fact, record-breaking numbers of Idahoans flocked to Idaho's Nicotine Replacement Therapy program. Typically, about 1,300 people seek help quitting smoking each month through the programs—but in March and April the number reached 6,300.

Smokers can call the Idaho Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW, a free telephone counseling service designed to help smokers quit. They can also receive up to five free counseling sessions with a trained quit coach at their convenience.

Community support groups and fee-based quitting smoking classes that are available by calling the Idaho CareLine at 211.

Since last July, Idaho smokers have also been able to request a free four-week supply of nicotine patches, gum and lozenges to help them quit smoking. Money for the Nicotine Replacement Therapy program comes from the Millennium Fund, and Idaho legislators voted this spring to continue the program beginning in July.

Some Tobacco Facts

Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death and disease in our society. Each year, more than 1,500 Idahoans die from smoking-related diseases, an average of four people per day.

While 21 percent of all Idaho adults smoke, 25 percent of young adults aged 18-24 smoke. Unless smoking rates decline, 32,000 current Idaho teenagers eventually will die from smoking.

Research shows the average age when Idahoans begin smoking is 13. That's why preventing a person from smoking before he or she starts is the key to our efforts.

Know Idaho's Law

It is illegal to sell tobacco products to persons under 18 years of age. Tobacco products include, but are not limited to:

Cigarettes
Cigars
Pipes
Snuff
Loose leaf tobacco
Smokeless tobacco
Tobacco papers

It is against the law to sell, distribute or offer tobacco products to a minor. Check photo identification to determine if a person is less than 18 years old.

If you sell tobacco to someone under age 18, you personally can be fined \$100.

Nicotine chewing gum, lozenges and inhalers may cause cancer

A study led by Muy-Teck Teh, of Queen Mary University of London has found that the effects of a genetic mutation common in mouth cancer can be worsened by nicotine in the levels that are typically found in smoking cessation products. The results raise the prospect that nicotine, the addictive chemical in tobacco, may be more carcinogenic than had previously been appreciated.

“Although we acknowledge the importance of encouraging people to quit smoking, our research suggests nicotine found in lozenges and chewing gums may increase the risk of mouth cancer,” Teh said. “Smoking is of course far more dangerous, and people who are using nicotine replacement to give up should continue to use it and consult their GPs if they are concerned. The important message is not to overuse it, and to follow advice on the packet.”

Most nicotine replacement products have labels advising people to cut down after three months of use and to stop completely after six months.

In the new research, published in the journal Public Library of Science One, Teh’s team has investigated the role of a gene called FOXM1 in mouth cancer.

A mutation that raises the activity of this gene is commonly found in many tumors, and is also present in pre-cancerous cells in the mouth, the scientists found. This raised expression can then be worsened by exposure to nicotine, according to Teh.

“If you already have a mouth lesion that is expressing high levels of FOXM1 and you expose it to nicotine, it may add to the risk of converting it into cancer,” he said. “Neither the raised FOXM1 nor nicotine is alone sufficient to trigger cancer, but together they may have an effect.”

Printed in the Times of London 4/22/09

Smoking...Good for You??

“At the university we conducted a simple experiment. We took 20 live worms and divided them into two groups of 10. We then placed one group into a glass of pure drinking water and one group into a glass of water through which we filtered the smoke from a packet of cigarettes.

The worms in the drinking water lived for 7 days, but the worms in the smokey water died an agonizing death in less than 30 minutes, proving that if you smoke, you won't get worms...”

Well isn't that a comfort! ☺

Posted by: fingers on Radar talkback blog, Sydney Morning Herald

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