



**Contact us: 208-334-6542**  
ID Tobacco Project Website: [healthandwelfare.idaho.gov](http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov)  
Select the "medical" menu and then "Idaho Tobacco Permits"

*Volume 12, Issue 10*  
*October 2013*

## **Facts and Stats**

"A-" average for September

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 September 2013:

- 215 Vendors were inspected.\*
- 21 Vendors sold to the inspecting minor.
- The compliance rate for the month was 90.23%

\*Inspections where purchase attempts were made.

## **Prevent the Sale Website**

[preventthesale.com/Idaho](http://preventthesale.com/Idaho)

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

*Written by Cheryl Reed*



## **Are E-Cigarettes Dangerous? Time Will Tell**

### **E-cigarettes Becoming Popular**

Middle and high school students seem to like the new e-cigarettes: battery-powered devices that deliver nicotine in a vaporized form. The problem is the health effects are still unclear, although most acknowledge they are less harmful than traditional cigarettes. The FDA has not regulated the e-cigarettes yet, but expect to soon.

One in ten high school students surveyed said they had tried an e-cigarette last year, up from one in 20 in 2011.

A major concern among health officials is the potential for e-cigarettes to tempt more young people to smoke who may have not otherwise experimented.

The sharp rise in e-cigarette use appears to be driven in part by aggressive national marketing campaigns that feature famous actors. E-cigarettes also come in flavors, which was banned in traditional cigarettes in 2009. Health officials claim that these flavors appeal to young people.

About six percent of all adults reported having tried e-cigarettes.

### **LCSC Goes Smoke Free**

Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston is now a non-smoking campus after passing a new "Fresh Air" policy that only allows smoking in five designated parking lots on campus. The new policy applies to anyone on College property, including visitors and work crews.

Key goals of the policy are to eliminate exposure to second-hand smoke and provide a healthy environment for all users of the campus. The policy also addresses the objectives related to decreasing adult tobacco use in the Centers for Disease Control's "Healthy Campus 2020" initiative. The college also supports employees' and students' efforts to quit smoking and offers resources for smoking cessation.

The new LCSC smoking restrictions are more stringent than those in current Idaho Code, which prohibit smoking inside any College-owned property or outside within 20 feet of all entrances and exits.

## We're Making a Difference!

New statistics show that the sale of tobacco to minors in the U.S. was held near all-time lows last year under a federal-state inspection program intended to curb underage usage.

The violation rate of tobacco sales to underage youth at retailers nationwide has fallen from about 40 percent in 1997 to 9.1 percent in the last fiscal year, according to a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration report released Tuesday. The rate, which reached an all-time low of 8.5 percent in 2011, is based on the results of random, unannounced inspections conducted at stores to see whether they'd sell tobacco products to a customer under the age of 18.

A U.S. Surgeon General's report issued last year found that more needs to be done to prevent young Americans from using tobacco, including stricter smoking bans and higher taxes on tobacco products. According to that report, almost one in five high school-aged children smoke. That's down from earlier decades, but the rate of decline has slowed. It also said that more than 80 percent of smokers begin by age 18 and 99 percent of adult smokers in the U.S. start by age 26.

The inspection program, named for late U.S. Rep. Mike Synar of Oklahoma, is a federal mandate requiring each state to document that the rate of tobacco sales to minors is no more than 20 percent, or be at risk losing millions in federal funds for alcohol and other drug abuse prevention and treatment services.

Frances Harding, director of the federal agency's Center for Substance Abuse, said that while the program has made "remarkable strides," far more needs to be done to curb underage tobacco use.

In the last fiscal year, 33 states and Washington, D.C., reported a retailer violation rate below 10 percent, according to the Tuesday report. It was the seventh time that no state was found to be out of compliance. Maine reported the lowest rate of 1.8 percent, and Oregon reported the highest rate at 17.9 percent.

The latest federal data shows that about 14 percent of minors reported buying their own cigarettes in stores, down from 19 percent a decade earlier, suggesting that children may instead be getting their cigarettes and tobacco products from places other than convenience stores or gas stations.

### Inspection Clarification

In last month's newsletter, we mistakenly stated that retailers would not be inspected twice within a 30-day period. There is no such timeline in the Idaho code or legislative rules. The Food and Drug Administration is also conducting inspections in Idaho, which are in addition to, and separate from, state enforcement efforts. Please contact the Idaho Tobacco Project if you would like additional information. We apologize for the error.



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