

Teamwork Makes All the Difference: 2002 – A Year in Review

By Jill C. Urie

The Results Are In!

Tobacco sales to minors continue to fall. Results from the Idaho Tobacco Inspections 2002 Annual Report indicate that tobacco sales to minors have dropped 8% since 2001. In 2001, about one in every five teens could purchase tobacco products from vendors.* In 2002, only one in ten could purchase tobacco.* (Rates do not include bars and lounges.) In addition, most Idaho business (92%) requested and received driver's licenses when inspecting minors attempt to purchase tobacco. It is your commitment that makes all the difference. You can be proud of the improvements made in 2002.



Work still needs to be done. Last year, about two-thirds of all the sales to minors occurred after the minor's ID was checked. In other words, the clerk was holding the minors ID when the sale was made. To prevent this, take the time to review Idaho's IDs. Each ID has a simple way to spot underage customers without having to calculate age.

*Compliance validation rates for non-age restrictive businesses reported to the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. Their value may differ with the addition of age-restricted businesses.

What We've Learned in 2002

We learned that:

- the new Idaho driver's licenses make it easier than ever to spot underage



Teamwork makes all the difference!

buyers. The vertical format and color-coding system for minors allows you to simply view the ID without using math to calculate the age of the customer.

- the www.preventthesale.com website can be used as a fun way to help you learn the law and identify underage tobacco buyers.
- having trained employees and a clear store policy reduces tobacco sales to minors and reduces fines for the employees and businesses.
- a new online tobacco permitting system is available for your use to simplify the permitting and renewal process for vendors.

Most importantly – we know that:

- More than 1 million young people continue to become regular smokers.
- Minors will probably never smoke if they can stay smoke-free through high-school, and
- Idaho tobacco vendors and their employees can dramatically affect the lives of kids by refusing to sell tobacco products to them.

Year in Review! *continued*

Inspections Continue for 2003

Idaho law requires that any business with a tobacco permit be inspected once each year. Additional inspections are required depending upon the violation rate from the prior year and the number of businesses with permits. For example: If the violation rate for last year was 13.9 percent and there are 1900 permitted businesses in Idaho, the number of inspections would be: $1,900 \times 10 \times .139 = 2641$.

The number of inspections is defined by Idaho Code 29-5710.3.

Renewed Commitment for 2003

You are Idaho's first defense in preventing tobacco sale to minors. Being on the frontlines is not always easy, but the benefits are great. You have the power to affect a minor's life – to be the barrier between a teen and tobacco.

With a renewed commitment and diligence to prevent the sale of tobacco to minors, you not only uphold your responsibility to the law, but you can change a teen's life forever.

Factoids and Statistics

“B+” Average for December

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. For December of 2002:

- ◆ 210 Vendors were inspected. *
- ◆ 25 Vendors sold to the inspecting minor.
- ◆ The compliance rate for the month of December, 2002 was 88%.

*Inspections where purchase attempts were made.

Prevent the Sale Website

Go to:

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?”

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