

Prevent the Sale!

Newsletter for Idaho Tobacco Retailers

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Sponsored by Idaho Department of Health & Welfare

VOLUME 06, NUMBER 6

JUNE 2007

Tobacco Stats, Tolls and Economics

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 2007:

- ❖ 237 Vendors were inspected.*
- ❖ 34 Vendors sold to the inspecting minor.
- ❖ The compliance rate for the month of May 2007 was 86%

*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?"

Idaho's Tobacco Statistics

Since the November 1998 multi-state tobacco settlement, The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids© has issued regular reports assessing whether the states are keeping their promise to use a significant portion of the settlement funds to attack the public health problem posed by tobacco use in the United States.

This year, it found that states have modestly increased total funding for tobacco prevention and cessation programs; however, funding for tobacco prevention remains low. For the vast majority of states, it remains a challenge to fund prevention programs at the levels recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In Idaho, the Idaho State Police and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare are partners in enforcement and administration of the minors' access law. Although, funding issues across the nation can sometimes fall short, Idaho has seen a dramatic decrease in sales to minors since it started enforcement inspections.

Since 1997, sales of cigarettes to minors have decreased from 45% to about 13%, largely due to issuance of violations to retailers and a strong commitment from the vendors like you.

Tobacco's Toll in Idaho

The following statistics show the devastating impact tobacco can have on Idaho's adults and kids:

Kids under 18 who become new smokers each year:

1,500

Kids now under 18 and alive in Idaho who will ultimately die prematurely from smoking:

24,000

Adults in Idaho who smoke:

17.9%

Adults who die each year from smoking:

1,500

Annual health care costs in Idaho directly caused by smoking:

\$319 million

High school students who smoke:

15.8% (13,800)

Male high school students who use smokeless or spit tobacco:

15.6% (females use much lower)

Packs of cigarettes bought or smoked by kids each year:

2.8 million

Nationwide, youth smoking has declined dramatically since the mid-1990s, but that decline appears to have slowed considerably or even stopped in more recent years. The 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that the percentage of high school students reporting that they have smoked cigarettes in the past month increased from 21.9 percent in 2003 to 23 percent in 2005. This increase follows a 40 percent decline between 1997 and 2003, when rates peaked at 36.4 percent. The survey also found that 13.6 percent of high school males use spit tobacco. U.S. adult smoking has decreased gradually in the last several decades, and 20.9 percent of U.S. adults (about 45 million) currently smoke.

Fewer Idaho adults and kids smoke than the national average thanks, in part, to tobacco vendors and their diligence to refuse the sale to minors. However, more male high school students in Idaho use spit tobacco than the national average. Continued diligence by tobacco vendors to prevent the sale to minors will help save Idaho's youth from a lifetime of health problems and premature death.

Economics of Tobacco in Idaho

- Health care expenses caused directly by smoking-related illnesses are \$249 million a year in Idaho —\$188 for each adult in the state, whether they smoke or not!
- Health care expenses caused directly by smoking-related illnesses covered by Medicaid in Idaho are about \$65 million, or \$527 per Medicaid recipient.
- Neonatal health care expenses for the smoking-related illnesses of newborns in Idaho: \$704 per expectant mother.
- The cost of decreased productivity in Idaho due to smoking-related illnesses is about \$271 million or \$287 per adult.
- It costs each Idaho household \$490 per year in federal and state taxes to cover smoking-related government expenditures.
- 10 to 14 percent of Idaho's blue-collar workers' annual medical expenses are tobacco-related.
- In the two years after the Master Settlement Agreement, tobacco industry marketing expenditures increased by 42 percent to a record \$9.6 billion in 2000. That's \$26 million a day to market cigarettes.

- Annual tobacco industry marketing expenditure in Idaho is \$44.6 million—that's \$12,200 spent per day on advertising. \$1,439 per day is spent to counter these messages.
- From 1998 to 2000, tobacco companies increased cigarette prices \$1.10 a pack. They paid 51 cents per pack in 2000 and 59 cents per pack in 2001 for Master Settlement costs. Their profit is still at least 50 cents per pack.

Kick Butts Day

Kids across Idaho rallied against tobacco on March 28, 2007 as they join thousands of young people nationwide for the twelfth annual Kick Butts Day, sponsored by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. This year, Kick Butts Day raised awareness about the thousands of chemicals in each puff of cigarette smoke.

Cigarette smoke contains more than 4,000 chemicals, including at least 69 that cause cancer and many more that are hazardous. Chemicals in cigarette smoke include arsenic (used in rat poison, causes cancer in humans), ammonia (used in household cleaners, can irritate the respiratory tract and elevate blood pressure), formaldehyde (used to embalm bodies, causes nasal cancer and can damage the lungs, skin and digestive system), and polonium 210 (a highly radioactive element that causes cancer).

Can you find the answer to this question: how many high school students in the U.S. smoke? Do you know what you can do to reduce that number? Look at www.preventthesale.com for answers and help.

VOLUME 06, NUMBER 6 JUNE 2007



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US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. XXX
Boise, ID

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