exposure.

The Newsletter of the Tobacco Free Task Force in Washington County

DoYourPart | 2006

Washington County Results Exceed Standards for Third Consecutive Year

Do Your Part supports local law enforcement and the business community in prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to minors.

As a primary contractor with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), the Tobacco Free Program of Washington County Health Partners conducts youth access to tobacco Enforcement Compliance Checks (ECC) with each tobacco retailer in Washington County.

Pennsylvania Act 112 of 2002 makes it illegal for a retailer to sell tobacco products to minors. Any retailer or retail clerk caught selling tobacco products to minors faces a citation and fine.

Restricting youth access to tobacco products is a major preventative measure.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that one-third of all youth who ever try cigarettes become regular, daily smokers before leaving high school, and nearly 300,000 Pennsylvania kids under the age of 18 will die prematurely from smoking.

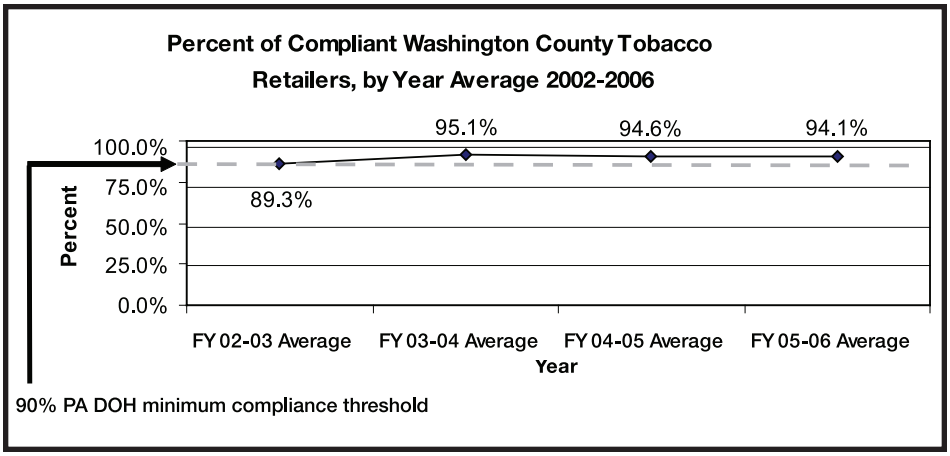
The DOH requires a minimum threshold of 90% compliance among tobacco retailers. Our 94.1% annual compliance rate for the 2005-2006 fiscal year marks the third consecutive year that Washington County ECC rates were above the DOH minimum.

"There is always room for improvement, but we are glad with the compliance we have been getting," said Lee Rutledge-Falcione, Executive Director, Washington County Health Partners (WCHP).

There will be changes in the ECC process during the 2006-2007 fiscal year. The most noticeable will be that all compliance checks will be done by WCHP staff.

Since the inception of ECC back in the 2002-2003 fiscal year, local police departments have partnered with WCHP to complete the checks.

Continued on page 2



Next Tobacco Free Task Force Meeting
Friday, August 25, 2006
9-11 a.m.

Hillsview Chapel Meditation Area, Presbyterian SeniorCare, Washington, PA

Next Issue:
Set Them Free

tobacco free.
A Program of Washington County Health Partners

Fast Facts

The Push for Clean Indoor Air Continues

Clean indoor air advocates are busy this summer. Much of the activity comes on the heels of U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona's recent report about the dangers of secondhand smoke.

The Blue Card Campaign continues (*for more information, see page 3*), and various businesses and government entities have either taken action or spoken out in favor of Clean Indoor Air Laws.

The Pennsylvania Restaurant Association (PRA) has changed their long-held stance on clean indoor air. PRA Chief Executive Officer Patrick Conway says the group is now pushing for an all-inclusive smoking ban. Conway also said the group changed its position out of concern for the health of employees in the restaurant business. The PRA is also concerned about potential health liability issues.

In Philadelphia, the City Council passed a public smoking ban ordinance in June that has not been signed by Mayor John Street.

Allegheny County Council passed a resolution in July calling for the Pennsylvania General Assembly to enact legislation to protect the public's health and welfare from secondhand smoke in "public places throughout the Commonwealth."

The Allegheny County Department of Health and the County Council are also working together to enact a county-wide public smoking ban.

Proposed legislation exists in the House of Representatives (HB 1489), and the Senate (SB 602), calling for public smoking bans. If not passed by November 30, they must be reintroduced in 2007.

Sources:
legistar.county.allegheny.pa.us
Daily Pennsylvanian

Do Your Part

Continued from page one

Funding issues have prompted the change. Moving ECC in-house will enable more financial resources to be used for tobacco use prevention programs, according to Ms. Rutledge-Falcione.

The participating police departments have been sent letters, thanking them for their work and explaining the reason for the change. During the funding cuts that occurred in the 2005-2006 fiscal year, payments to police departments were reduced from $45 to $30 per compliance check. All of the participating police departments continued to participate, and two new departments were added. "They really have been wonderful partners," said Ms. Rutledge-Falcione.

*(**Editor's Note**: On August 2, the South Strabane Township Police Department has agreed to continue conducting Enforcement Compliance Checks for the new fiscal year. The Tobacco Free Program of Washington County Health Partners thanks Chief Donald Zofcheck and the Police Department for their support.)*

For the 2006-2007 fiscal year, an estimated 203 tobacco retailers will be checked three times.

Other ECC activities that will take place during the 2006-2007 fiscal year include:

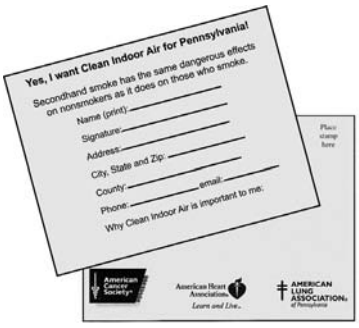
- Tobacco retailers will be notified twice a year of compliance check results;
- WCHP will track results of citations issued during compliance checks; and,
- Retailers who have congratulatory plaques (for successfully passing the prior year's compliance checks) will have them updated. Thirty tobacco retailers recently joined the list of those in compliance and will receive plaques.

An important part of the Enforcement Compliance Checks are youth volunteers. Teens, 14 to 17 years of age, are needed to help in the process. "It is a great way to do community service," said Marsha Morrison, Tobacco Free Coordinator. "Any teen interested or who needs to do a senior project should contact us."

Anyone who knows a teen (age 14-17) who would be interested in participating in compliance checks or wants to learn more about the process should contact:

Marsha Morrison, Tobacco Free Coordinator
Washington County Health Partners, Inc.
Phone: 1-866-904-FREE, ext. 13
Fax: 724-222-6685 ● E-mail: mam@wchpinc.org

Do You Want Clean Indoor Air in Pennsylvania?



Participate in the Blue Card Campaign sponsored by the Pennsylvania Alliance to Control Tobacco (PACT), American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association and the Tobacco Free Program of Washington County Health Partners.

Two blue post cards will be filled out. They contain your contact information, and an explanation as to why you think clean indoor air is important. These cards will be sent to your state representative and senator, and

Clean Indoor Air/Blue Card Campaign (*continued*)

PACT will keep you updated on clean indoor air developments as they happen.

To participate, contact:
Craig Whyel, Tobacco Free Outreach Specialist
Phone: 1-866-904-FREE, ext. 12 ● E-mail: crw@wchpinc.org

Tobacco Free Task Force Members to Appear at the Healthy 4 Life Expo

Kathy Higgins, of The Washington Hospital, and William Cousins, of New Eagle, will represent the Tobacco Free Program of Washington County Health Partners along with the Southwestern Tobacco Free Coalition at the WTAE-TV Healthy 4 Life Expo, on Saturday, August 26, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh. Admission to the event is free.

The Southwestern Tobacco Free Coalition will provide tobacco use cessation and prevention information at the event, which will feature more than sixty exhibitors, and appearances by many WTAE-TV personalities.

Participation in the Healthy 4 Life Expo concludes a special project initiative that began earlier this year. The project was developed to create awareness of the dangers secondhand smoke for young children and expectant mothers. Educational materials, TV commercials, and internet resources were created.

Tracking Tobacco Free Program Success

In each issue, *Exposure* will include progress reports on some of the goals established in our 2006-07 strategic plan. Following is an abbreviated list of the key indicators we are using to help us track how we are doing at reducing adult and youth tobacco use, and eliminating it as a norm. Watch for the first progress report in the next issue.

Tobacco Free Program Areas	FY06-07 Goal
Ask and Advise: *Number of physicians, dentists, and pharmacists visited and given materials to support 2As and R*	60 doctors/pharmacists/ health care professionals
Clear the Air: *Number of smoke-free home & vehicle, and new baby smoke-free home & vehicle pledges*	1,000 pledges
Do Your Part: *Average % of compliant retailers*	90% or more
Help to Quit: *Number of people in tobacco cessation program*	300 people
Help to Quit: *Tobacco cessation quit rate*	14.1% or higher
Help to Quit: *Number of tobacco users in Get Free Program*	50 people
Help to Quit: *Number of tobacco quit kits distributed*	250 kits
Knowledge in Action: *Number of Blue Cards filled out*	1700 cards
Knowledge in Action: *Number of program participant endorsements*	499 endorsements
Knowledge in Action: *Number of legislative visits/contacts*	9 visits/contacts
Set Them Free: *Number of children reached with prevention (community and school)*	7,883 children
Peer Factor: *Number of events*	4 events
Peer Factor: *Number of teens who quit using tobacco*	4 teens

Fast Facts (*continued*)

Marriott Hotels Going Smoke-free
Marriott International announced that, effective in September, their hotels would be smoke free. This involves their 2,300 outlets, which collectively have 400,000 rooms.

With over 90% of Marriott's rooms already smoke free, the company does not expect a loss in business. They also expect to save money in cleaning costs.

The company is considering instituting a $200-$300 cleaning fee should they "find any evidence of smoking in hotel rooms."

The Westin Hotel chain began 2006 with a smoking ban. Disneyland's resort in Anaheim, California, also banned smoking in its 2,224 rooms this year.

Marriott expects that more hotel chains will soon follow suit in becoming smoke free.
Sources:
Associated Press
Post-Gazette

Smoke-free Dining Guide

Clear the Air

tobacco free
A Program of Washington County Health Partners

Smoke-free Dining
Welcome to Smoke-free Dining. We want you to be able to choose a dining experience that is pleasant and free from the health hazard—as well as the smell—of tobacco smoke.

Short-term exposure to secondhand smoke does real damage to your health, as well as to the health of restaurant and bar employees. One of the best things you can do for your and your family's health is to choose to dine in smoke-free places.

Don't be fooled by restaurants that claim to be smoke free, but have a section or bar attached that allows smoking. Many of the harmful ingredients in secondhand smoke are odorless, and no ventilation system can completely remove them from the air you breathe.

(Reprinted from a Fact Sheet on Secondhand Smoke compiled by Stanton Glantz, PhD, Ichiro Kawachi, PhD, and James Repace, MSc)

To receive a printed copy of our Smoke-free Dining Guide and accompanying stickers, call 1-866-904-FREE (3733).

The complete guide may also be obtained by visiting our web site at www.tobaccofreewashington.org.

Please let us know if you discover establishments that should be included in future guides by calling 724-222-6511.

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Tobacco Free Task Force
Washington County Health Partners
Washington Federal Square Building
190 North Main Street, Suite 208
Washington, PA 15301

www.tobaccofreewashington.org

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Do Your Part

July 28th Meeting Notes Inside...

Note: You are invited to the next Tobacco Free Task Force meeting. Details are on the front page of this issue of *Exposure*.

Tobacco Free Task Force Meeting Calendar

Date	Time	Topic
Fri., Aug 25, 2006	9-11 a.m.	Set Them Free
Fri., Sep.22, 2006	9-11 a.m.	Ask and Advise
Fri., Oct. 27, 2006	9-11 a.m.	Help to Quit
Tues., Nov. 21, 2006	8-10 a.m.	WCHP's Annual Public Meeting @ Western Area Career & Technical Center
Fri., Dec. 15, 2006	9 -11 a.m.	Knowledge in Action @ Western Area Career & Technical Center
Fri., Jan. 26, 2007	9-11 a.m.	Mid-Year Review
Fri., Feb.23, 2007	9-11 a.m.	Clear the Air
Fri., Mar. 23, 2007	9-11 a.m.	Peer Factor
Fri., Apr. 27, 2007	9-11 a.m.	Review Assessment Data/Strategic Planning Part I
Fri., May 18, 2007	9-11 a.m.	Review Assessment Data/Strategic Planning Part II
Fri., June 22, 2007	9-11 a.m.	Review Assessment Data/Strategic Planning Part III

All meetings are held at the Hillsview Chapel Meditation Area, Presbyterian SeniorCare, Washington, PA, unless otherwise noted.

(800) QUIT NOW

(800) 784-8669

Referral line to free tobacco cessation services

Make a Pledge to Keep Your Home and Vehicles Smoke Free

Smoke-free Home and Vehicle Pledge Kit
...Breathing tobacco smoke pollution is be harmful to people (especially children). We can help you make your home and vehicles smoke free.

New Baby Smoke-free Home and Vehicle Pledge Kit
...Infants under 18 months of age who live in a smoking household are twice as likely to die from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. We can help you protect the newest member of your family.

Contact us to sign up for your free kit!
724-222-6511 ● 1-866-904-FREE
www.tobaccofreewashington.org

For comments/questions or to subscribe to *Exposure*, contact:
Craig Whyel, Tobacco Free Outreach Specialist
Phone: 724-222-6511, ext.12 or 1-866-904-3733 (FREE)
E-mail: crw@wchpinc.org.

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A Program of Washington County Health Partners

Funding is provided by the PA Department of Health.