

# Kentucky Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Status Report, 2004

## FACT SHEET

### Purpose

To describe tobacco use and policy patterns in the Commonwealth and in all local health department service areas from 1996 to 2003

The Status Report 2004 summarizes progress toward the goals and objectives set forth in the Kentucky Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program Annual Plan, based on the *Healthy Kentuckians 2010* Tobacco Use Objectives.

### **Objective Met:**

In 2003, 100% of local health departments provided programs to help tobacco users quit. There was more than a 200% increase in the number of health departments providing the Cooper Clayton Method to Stop Smoking from 1999 to 2003 (*Objective 3.20d*).

### **Making Progress:**

- In just one year, the percent of smoke-free food establishments increased significantly from 39.6% in 2002 to 44.5% in 2003. This increase in smoke-free food service establishments reflects voluntary policy change since there were no local or state laws restricting smoking in public places during that time.
- On July 1, 2003, Lexington-Fayette County enacted the first smoke-free ordinance in the state. After a 7-month legal challenge, the ordinance was implemented on April 27, 2004.
- Participation in cessation programs jumped dramatically since 1999, with an average participation rate of 56.3 per 10,000 adult smokers in 2003.
- In 2003, there was a significant increase in schools providing smoking cessation services for students and employees, although less than 1 in 3 schools provided these services.
- Most Kentucky schools (72.7%) had at least one evidence-based substance abuse prevention program in 2003.
- Illegal tobacco sales to minors decreased approximately 60% from 1998-99 to 2002-03. In 2002-03, there was 94.3% compliance with the youth access purchase law, although there was a decline in the actual number of compliance checks.

### **No Progress:**

- There was no change in adult cigarette use, adult quit attempts, or smoking during pregnancy from 1996 to 2002.
- Less than half of Kentucky middle and high schools (41.7%) completely prohibited tobacco use on school grounds in 2003, similar to 2001.
- From 1999 to 2002, there was no significant increase in the percentage of manufacturing facilities that prohibited indoor smoking.
- In 2003, only 44.6% of schools reported that students always comply with smoke-free policies, a significant decline since 2001.

### **Recommendations:**

- Increase the excise taxes on tobacco products to at least 10% of the product price.
- Promote the enactment of local smoke-free laws.
- Engage more tobacco users in cessation attempts by providing a wide range of treatment options including population-based strategies (i.e., quit lines, contests).
- Reduce out-of-pocket costs for effective tobacco dependence treatment.
- Conduct mass media education campaigns using effective messages to promote cessation, prevent initiation, and eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Promote tobacco-free campuses in all public and private schools.

The full report is available at [www.mc.uky.edu/tobaccopolicy](http://www.mc.uky.edu/tobaccopolicy)

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