

# Tobacco-Free News

e-Update: Summer 2015



by the Tobacco-Free Suburban Milwaukee & Ozaukee Counties Coalition. We encourage you to share this newsle  
n someone you know and wish to have your own subscription or if you'd like to provide any feedback, please send  
Coordinator, [smartenlsw@wi.rr.com](mailto:smartenlsw@wi.rr.com).

## In This Issue:



July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 marked the 5 year Anniversary of a Smoke-Free Wisconsin!!!

## Around The State and Nation

**Three out of 4 American adults favor making 21 the minimum age of sale for tobacco products**

*Seven in 10 cigarette smokers favor raising age of sale*

Three out of 4 American adults – including 7 in 10 cigarette smokers – favor raising the minimum age of sale for all tobacco products to 21, according to an article by CDC published in the “American Journal of Preventative Medicine.” While an overwhelming majority of adults favored the policy overall, favorability is slightly higher among adults who never smoked and older adults. In contrast, 11 percent of adults strongly opposed making 21 the legal age of sale, while 14 percent somewhat opposed such measures.

In most states, the minimum age of sale for tobacco is 18: in Alabama, Alaska, New Jersey and Utah the minimum age of sale is 19. One state - Hawaii – currently prohibits sales of tobacco products to youth under the age of 21. Additionally, several cities and counties across the U.S. have adopted laws raising the minimum age to 21, starting with Needham, Massachusetts, in 2005; New York City, Evanston, Illinois; Englewood, New Jersey; Columbia, Missouri; and several other communities in Massachusetts later followed suit. The California State Senate recently approved similar legislation and is waiting for the General Assembly to do the same.

According to the CDC, raising the minimum age of sale to 21 could benefit the health of Americans in several ways. It could delay the age of first experimenting with tobacco,

reducing the likelihood of transitioning to regular use and increasing the likelihood that those who do become regular users can quit.

For more on the CDC report go to:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0749379715002524>

## Hawaii Tobacco Free Beaches, Too?!!!

In addition to raising the minimum age of sale for all tobacco products, Hawaii Governor



David Ige also signed another legislative bill that outlaws smoking tobacco or e-cigarettes at all Hawaii state parks and beaches. Governor Ige explained, “When you talk to people who are users of the parks, and who are responsible for keeping our parks clean, cigarette smoking and cigarette butts are a huge, huge challenge.” He added, “We already

have the longest life expectancy in the country for a wide variety of reasons, and I do believe that taking these actions here today will only strengthen and lengthen the opportunities for the citizens to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.”



## Wisconsin Casino Goes Smoke-Free

Ho Chuck Gaming – Madison will be the first 100% smoke-free (and e-cigarette free!) tribal casino in Wisconsin as of August 1<sup>st</sup>. Executive manager Daniel Brown said, “We’re excited to offer our guests and employees a completely smoke-free environment.” An estimated 3 million guests visit

this Madison casino each year. The Potawatomi Hotel and Casino in Milwaukee now offers over 500 non-smoking/e-cig free games.



## Smoke-Free Housing Survey Conducted in Wisconsin

Wisconsin law (Wis.Stat. 101.123) prohibits smoking in indoor common areas such as hallways and laundry rooms in multi-unit housing. However, many Housing Authorities have extended this smoke-free policy to cover other areas of their buildings, such as individual units, patios, or outdoor grounds on the property.

Last January, 63 of 125 Wisconsin Housing Authorities responded to the WI Association of Housing Authorities (WAHA)/Clear Gains Smoke-Free Housing survey. The purpose of the survey was to determine how many Wisconsin Housing Authorities have voluntarily extended their smoke-free policies beyond the areas mandated by the statewide smoke-free air law.

Survey highlights include:

- 81% of respondents stated that their Housing Authority has smoke-free units in all or some of their buildings.
- 51 Housing Authorities in Wisconsin have implemented smoke-free policies for all or some of their properties and although violations sometimes occur, an overwhelming majority of these Housing Authorities are satisfied with their policies.

To read the full report and learn more about smoke-free multi-unit housing in Wisconsin visit [www.wismokefreehousing.com](http://www.wismokefreehousing.com)

## Around The World

### Smoking 'may play schizophrenia role' according to BBC report

Published in the British Journal of "Lancet Psychiatry" researchers at the Kings College London say smokers are more likely to develop the schizophrenia disorder and at a younger age. Findings also conclude that adults with mental health issues are about twice as likely to smoke, and 2/3rds of persons with the schizophrenia disorder smoke. Furthermore, 57% of people with psychosis were already smokers when they had their first episode. Daily smokers were twice as likely to develop schizophrenia as non-smokers and smokers developed schizophrenia a year earlier on average.

The argument is that if there is a higher rate of smoking before schizophrenia is diagnosed, then smoking is not simply a case of self-medication. However, clearly most smokers do not develop schizophrenia, but the researchers believe it is increasing the risk.

The Wisconsin Tobacco Prevention and Control Program along with the UW-Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention (UW-CTRI) have developed a program supportive of tobacco cessation while also treating mental illness and/or substance abuse – WINTIP – Wisconsin Nicotine Treatment Integration Project. For more information on WINTIP visit [www.wisconsinwintip.com](http://www.wisconsinwintip.com)

And, to read more about the above British study go to <http://www.bbc.com/news/health-33464480>

## Get involved

Do you have a story to share regarding tobacco control or the passion to educate residents about the dangers of tobacco use or exposure? We want you!!! Opportunities exist to "make a difference" in your community and prevent another generation from ever starting to use tobacco. Contact coalition coordinator, Sue Marten, to learn how.

### Our Mission Statement

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The Tobacco-Free Suburban Milwaukee & Ozaukee Coalition is a grassroots organization dedicated to reducing tobacco related premature illness, death and disability of Southeastern Wisconsin residents by reducing their use of tobacco products and exposure to second-hand smoke.

Sue Marten, Coalition Coordinator  
[smartensw@wi.rr.com](mailto:smartensw@wi.rr.com) 414-659-6147