

News Release – For immediate release 07/13/2023 Contact: Katelyn Gorius TCHD Public Health Educator & Tobacco Grant Coordinator <u>kgorius@tchdnow.org</u> 330-343-5555 x1860

## **Tobacco Retailer Compliance Checks Completed in Tuscarawas County**

DOVER – The Tuscarawas County Health Department (TCHD), in partnership with the Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) and Empower Tusc, recently completed 54 compliance checks at tobacco retailers across Tuscarawas County. The purpose of the tobacco retailer compliance checks was to ensure that tobacco retailers were following the Tobacco 21 law, which makes it illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to purchase a tobacco or nicotine product.

Out of the 54 tobacco retailer compliance checks conducted, 47 retailers passed their compliance check and did not sell to an underage purchaser and two retailers were found to not have any tobacco products in stock at the time of the compliance check. This gives Tuscarawas County a 90% compliance rate.

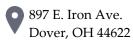
"We are pleased to see a 90% compliance rate here in Tuscarawas County and encourage all tobacco retailers to take time to review the Tobacco 21 law and how to check IDs with their staff when someone is hired and on an annual basis," explained TCHD Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Grant Coordinator Katelyn Gorius. "It is very important that every retailer does their part to help enforce Tobacco 21 and keep tobacco products out of the hands of Tuscarawas County youth."

All retailers that passed their compliance check received a packet of educational materials by mail, along with a letter to inform them they passed their compliance check and the date and time of their compliance check. Store owners/managers are encouraged to see who was working during their compliance check and recognize that employee(s) for doing their part to enforce Tobacco 21. All retailers that did not pass their compliance check were visited by representatives from TCHD and TCSO to hand deliver their packet of educational materials and provide in person education on Tobacco 21.

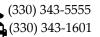
Any tobacco retailer in Tuscarawas County that would like information on Tobacco 21, an educational training for their staff, or Tobacco 21 promotional resources for their retailer establishment can contact Katelyn Gorius at 330-343-5555 x1860 or kgorius@tchdnow.org.

If you or someone you know needs help quitting nicotine and/or tobacco products, call the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) to get connected with a FREE quit coach today!

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