



News Release- For immediate release, 07/02/25

Contact: Lana Schrock

TCHD Public Health Educator

[lschrock@tchdnow.org](mailto:lschrock@tchdnow.org)

330-343-5555 x1860

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

DOVER – The Tuscarawas County Health Department (TCHD) recently partnered with the Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) and Empower Tusc to complete 53 compliance checks at tobacco retailers across Tuscarawas County. The purpose of tobacco retailer compliance checks is to ensure that tobacco retailers are 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 53 tobacco retailer compliance checks conducted, all retailers passed their compliance check and did not sell to an underage purchaser. This is a significant improvement from last year's 89% compliance rate in Tuscarawas County.

"Compliance checks are an important part of enforcing the Tobacco 21 law and protecting youth from addiction," explained Terri Miller, Empower Tusc Coordinator. "Following the Tobacco 21 Law cuts off youth access to tobacco, which will lead to healthier, addiction-free youth in our community."

All retailers will receive a packet of educational materials mailed to their retail establishment, along with a letter to inform them they passed their compliance check and the date and time of their compliance check. "We think it's important to inform store owners and managers of who was working during the time of the compliance checks so that those employees can be recognized for enforcing Tobacco 21," noted Lana Schrock, Public Health Educator for the Tuscarawas County Health Department. "Normally, retailers that do not pass their compliance check would be visited by representatives from TCHD and TCSO to hand deliver their packet of educational materials and provide in person education on Tobacco 21, but that was not necessary this year since all stores passed their compliance checks."

According to the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, nearly all smokers start as kids or young adults, and these age groups are heavily targeted by the tobacco industry. Increasing the tobacco age to 21 helps to prevent young people from ever starting to smoke and to reduce the deaths, disease, and health care costs caused by tobacco use. 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 retail establishment can contact Lana Schrock at [lschrock@tchdnow.org](mailto:lschrock@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) or visit [ohioquits.org](http://ohioquits.org) to get connected with a FREE quit coach today!

###