



Arkansas' Milestones in Tobacco Prevention and Cessation

PREVENTION MILESTONES

TPCP continues to encourage non-tobacco users not to start.

To prevent the initiation of tobacco use, Arkansas passed Act 180 – The Tobacco Excise Tax. Act 180 was passed during the 2009 legislative session. This act increased the tax on cigarettes by 56 cents per pack. In addition, taxes on other forms of tobacco were increased, thus encouraging Arkansans not to pick up this costly and deadly habit. Community partnerships, school programs and events continue to help to deliver the tobacco-free message across Arkansas. Youth smoking has decreased from 35.8 percent in 2000 to 20.4 percent in 2007. This is approximately 21,500 fewer high school students who smoke. The percentage of Arkansas youth attempting to purchase tobacco decreased from 21.9 percent in 2001 to 4.8 percent in 2008. While national statistics remain stagnant, Arkansas continues to show a decline in youth smoking. The number of youth smokers in Arkansas has decreased from 34.7 percent to 20.4 percent.

CESSATION MILESTONES

Arkansas has decreased the number of smokers and tobacco users in our state. Since TPCP's inception in 2002, the percentage of adult smokers in Arkansas dropped from 25.1 percent to 20.7 percent, a decrease of more than 92,000. In 2008, a new vendor started providing tobacco cessation services to Arkansans. In the first eight months of operation, more than 21,000 Arkansans who use tobacco called the Arkansas Tobacco Quitline for help stopping their tobacco use.

POLICY AND SECONDHAND SMOKE MILESTONES

Arkansas has decreased the number of Arkansans exposed to secondhand smoke by passing and enforcing various laws. Act 8 – The Clean Indoor Air Act, passed in 2006. Act 8 prohibits smoking in most public places and work places, including bars and restaurants. Act 13, also passed in 2006, protects children less than 6 years of age or 60 pounds from secondhand smoke while riding in a car. Act 734, Arkansas Clean Air on Campus Act, passed during the 2009 legislative session. Act 734 calls for all state-funded campuses to become smoke-free by August 1, 2010. Act 697, better known as the "RIP (Reduced Ignition Propensity) Cigarettes Act," requires all cigarettes sold in Arkansas after January 1, 2010 to be made of paper that inhibits persistent burning, therefore decreasing a risk of causing a fire.

DISPARATE POPULATIONS MILESTONES

Arkansas continues to target disparate populations, including those with low levels of education and income, ages 18 – 24, ethnic minority and those who can't speak English. Smoking among pregnant women has decreased from 18.2 percent in 2000 to 15.7 percent in 2007. Since 2002, TPCP has partnered with the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff to ensure 15 percent of the TPCP funds are used in the prevention and cessation of tobacco use among minorities in Arkansas.