

December 15, 2022

To: The Honorable Kim Reynolds, Governor  
Members of the Iowa General Assembly

From: Robert Nichols,  
Chairman  
Iowa Commission on Tobacco Use Prevention and Control

Re: 2022 Annual Report of the Iowa Commission on Tobacco Use Prevention and Control

Pursuant to Iowa Code section 142A.4, I am pleased to submit to you this annual report of the Commission on Tobacco Use Prevention and Control for 2022. The Commission and our community partners take seriously the challenge of reducing the negative impacts of tobacco and nicotine use among Iowans. We appreciate the support of our accomplishments you and other leaders have shown and look forward to working with you on the important tobacco and nicotine control goals of our commission.

The intent of the legislative charge for Iowa's tobacco use prevention and control initiatives, as outlined in Iowa Code chapter 142A, are summarized below:

1. To establish partnerships among the Executive Branch, General Assembly, communities and the people of Iowa in addressing the prevalence of tobacco use in the state,
2. To work toward reduction in tobacco use by youth and pregnant women, while also engaging youth actively in attainment of these results, and
3. To foster a social and legal climate in which tobacco use becomes undesirable and socially unacceptable.

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in Iowa and the United States.

Accomplishments of the Commission on Tobacco Use Prevention and Control and the Tobacco Division during 2022 include:

- Allocation table for Community Partnerships for FY23; all 99 counties have local tobacco control work taking place
- Map of FY23 Community Partnerships
- Community Partnership Policy databases
- Commission on Tobacco Use Prevention and Control 2019-2023 Strategic Plan
  - The Commission's five-year plan places emphasis on nicotine addiction, the health risks of vaping and the increased teen use of electronic smoking devices.
  - The Commission recognizes that tobacco means cigarettes, vapor devices and other tobacco products.

The work of the Commission and Tobacco Division, as well as the ongoing provision of Quitline Iowa cessation services available to all Iowans is a valuable and essential asset for the state.

- The pandemic has underscored the importance of ongoing tobacco use prevention and control as smoking and vaping negatively impact lung health by both increasing the risk of developing respiratory infections and decreasing the body's ability to recover from them.
- The free one-on-one phone counseling and access to quit smoking medications available through Quitline Iowa remains a helpful resource to Iowans who want to quit and need support for coping with stress and withdrawal.

Policy databases and Smoke Free Homes Registry:

- Policy databases indicate:
  - The number of school districts with tobacco free/ nicotine free (TF/NF) policies **increased** from 285 in FY16 to 408 in FY22;
  - A **139% increase in TF/NF parks/recreation areas** (from 90 in FY18 to 215 in FY22).
  - A **142% increase in TF/NF businesses** (from 735 in FY18 to 1,778 in FY22);
- Over 1,325 rental properties in Iowa have a voluntary smoke free policy listed in the Smoke Free Homes Registry, a 29% increase from 1,027 in FY17 when data collection began to FY23. (Note this reflects properties not units)

Consider the following statistics:

- In 2021, 24.0% of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students reported having ever used an e-cigarette.<sup>1</sup>
- The highest percent of students reporting current use was for electronic nicotine products (e.g. e-cigarette, JUUL, vape-pen, e-hookah, mod-box, or other electronic cigarette) with 13% of 11th graders.<sup>1</sup>
- Among 11th grade students who reported having used an electronic nicotine product, 43% reported first use between 15-16 years old<sup>1</sup>
- In Iowa, an estimated 1,800 cancer deaths each year are attributable to cigarette

---

<sup>1</sup> Iowa Department of Public Health. Division of Tobacco Use Prevention and Control. *Iowa Youth Tobacco Use Rates: Iowa Youth Survey—2021*. Des Moines: Iowa Dept. of Public Health, 2021. <https://iowayouthsurvey.idph.iowa.gov/>

smoking<sup>2</sup>

In 2023, the Commission on Tobacco Use Prevention and Control recommends state policymakers focus on the following priorities:

- Include e-cigarettes under the Iowa Smokefree Air Act.
- Tax alternative nicotine and vaping products at their cigarette equivalent and increase the cigarette excise tax.
- Begin regulating and lowering the concentration of nicotine in e-cigarettes and ban the sale of all flavored nicotine vaping products in Iowa.
- Restore state funding for tobacco and nicotine prevention, education and treatment to a total of \$12 million annually.

The Commission looks forward to working with your office as well as the Iowa Statehouse to address tobacco and nicotine control issues, as well as the vaping epidemic.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Lortet-Tieulent  
PharmD, BCPS

Chairman

Iowa Commission on Tobacco Use Prevention and Control

---

<sup>2</sup> Lortet-Tieulent, J, et al., State-Level Cancer Mortality Attributable to Cigarette Smoking in the US, *JAMA Intern Med.* 2016