

# Western Wisconsin Working for Tobacco-Free Living

www.W3TFL.org

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## Quarterly Coalition Meeting!

Hello everyone; W3TFL will be meeting quarterly in 2015. The dates are listed below so mark your calendars!

- **Tuesday September 15th 10:00 AM**
- Tuesday December 15th 10:00 AM

*\*The meeting will be held at the Polk County Public Health Department. 100 Polk County Plaza Balsam Lake WI 54810.*

## Change is in the Air

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is rumored to mandate smoke-free policies in the upcoming year. First, policy language will get drafted, followed by a 60-day public comment period. This new policy would be monumental in protecting children and adults from secondhand smoke exposure.

One in three nonsmokers is exposed to secondhand smoke in rental housing.



The Wisconsin Association of Housing Authorities is a part of the Clear Gains Network and has surveyed Wisconsin housing authorities and found 81% of respondents had smoke-free policies covering all or some of their buildings. While great news, there are still housing authorities that have not adopted smoke-free policies.

Clear Gains is eagerly awaiting any announcement from HUD and will continue providing resources and guidance to promote smoke-free housing policies. Feel free to contact [coordinator name and phone] or visit the Clear Gains website for more information on smoke-free housing: <http://wismokefreehousing.com>.

Stay tuned as the public comment period may come as soon as August or September!

## Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) Presentations

If your organization/group is interested in learning more about other tobacco products (OTPs), please contact Mary. We would love to come and do a presentation to spread the word!



**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 Preventive Medicine*.

"No one wants to see young people start down a path of lifetime addiction to tobacco," said Elizabeth Hagen, Health Educator. "It's no surprise that a majority of Americans support measures like this one, which could have a life-changing impact for millions of kids."

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; Hawaii County, Hawaii; Evanston, Illinois; Englewood, New Jersey; Columbia, Missouri; and several other communities in Massachusetts later followed suit.

"The state of Hawaii and many cities around the nation are raising the purchase age to keep tobacco out of kids' hands. Their success is leading to growing consensus around the benefits of raising the minimum age." said Hagen

More than 90 percent of adult smokers start before the age of 19. A recent study from the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences found that raising the minimum age to purchase tobacco products to 21 would prevent a quarter of a million premature deaths in this country by the end of the century. The study also found that raising the minimum age to buy tobacco would result in an estimated 25 percent decrease in 15-17 year olds beginning to use tobacco.

Smoking continues to be the leading cause of preventable death and disease across the country and in our state. Each year, 7,900 Wisconsinites die from tobacco-related illnesses and smoking costs Wisconsin residents nearly 2.66 billion dollars annually in health care expenses.

For more information on other ways to keep tobacco out of the hands of our youth visit:

[www.smokecheck.org](http://www.smokecheck.org) or [www.wiwins.org](http://www.wiwins.org)



**Amery FACT**  
*Spreading the Truth about tobacco*



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