



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

HOCKING COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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The Hocking County Health Department is proud to announce that funding has been granted through the Ohio Department of Health, Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Program to implement the stand program in our schools once again! stand is a youth-lead tobacco prevention program designed to provide students the opportunity to push for community-wide tobacco prevention, taking their health into their own hands. Students of the Logan Hocking Middle School and the Logan Hocking High School who want to make an impact in our community are encouraged to join. Opportunities will be available for students to become involved in media advocacy, counter marketing, policy change and tobacco prevention education.

According to the Hocking County Youth Risk Behavior Survey conducted by Wright State University in 2010, 22.4 percent of Logan Hocking Middle School students and nearly half (47.5 percent) of Logan Hocking High School students indicated that they have tried smoking at some point in their lives. Nearly 23 percent of high school students stated that they started smoking cigarettes when they were between the ages of 13 and 16 years old.

Secondhand smoke also appears to be an area of concern in Hocking County. Almost half of the respondents (45.1 percent of middle school students and 40.1 percent of high school students) indicate that they are exposed to secondhand smoke in their homes.

According to another Wright State University survey, more than two thirds of adults in Hocking County (68.1 percent) have smoked a cigarette at some point in their lives. Almost three quarters of respondents (72.4 percent) who have smoked at least one cigarette were under the age of 18 years the first time they did so. In addition, about 26.0 percent of adults in Hocking County currently smoke cigarettes, compared to 20.3 percent in the state of Ohio and 17.9 percent nationally.

Studies have shown that the majority of current smokers started the habit before the age of 18 and are more likely to continue the habit for years. Tobacco companies specifically target children and teens in hopes of obtaining long-term customers to replace those consumers that have passed away due to smoking related illnesses.

If you are a parent of a high school or middle school student, call the Hocking County Health department at 740-385-3030 ext. 255 to sign up for this youth lead tobacco-free initiative!