**Cecil County Health Advisory Committee Meeting**

**January 18, 2024**

**Cecil County Tobacco Task Force (CCTTF) Updates**

**Youth Risk Behavior Survey/Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Results**

Tobacco use in Cecil County is higher than the State of Maryland estimates. Cecil County youth and adult tobacco use have decreased from 2018-19 to 2021-22.

* Youth use of any tobacco product (includes ESD/vapes) went from 42.7% in 2018-19 to 24.5% in 2021-2022. State estimate was 15.6% in 2021-22.
* Adult tobacco use (includes ESD/vapes) went from 33.75% in 2018-19 to 28.7% in 2021-22. State estimate was 16.9% in 2021-22.

**FY 23 Updates**

**Tobacco Sales Enforcement**

* All Cecil County tobacco retailers received educational visits about compliance with the Tobacco 21 Law along with educational materials. Retailers with violations were revisited to discuss issues with compliance. A total of 132 educational visits were completed.
* Twenty-three retailers were carrying prohibited flavored vapor products. A draft letter to educate Cecil County tobacco retailers on prohibition of selling flavored vapor products was approved by the Alcohol and Tobacco Cannabis Commission (ATCC). ATCC is preparing an updated retailer guidance which will be attached to the letter, it is expected to be completed at the end of January. Out of compliance retailers will be revisited.
* As of 12/31/23, the Cecil County Sheriff’s Office conducted 20 tobacco sales compliance checks which resulted in 0 violations. *So far,* the local compliance rate is 100% or the local retailer violation rate (RVR) is 0% by local enforcement.
* In FFY24, seven Synar compliance checks were completed and one violation was found in Cecil County which gives our county compliance rate of 86% or our county RVR 14% by State Synar Checks Immediately following the report of the violation, the store manager was re-visited and educated on the importance of Tobacco 21 Law .

**Community-based /School- based Activities**

* As of 12/31/23, 3,640 (2,151 adults and 1,417 youth) were educated about tobacco use prevention/cessation outreach efforts/activities.
* As of 12/31/23, 164 students and 119 teachers were trained and/or educated through tobacco use prevention/cessation activities and programs.
* Thirteen communication campaigns to increase tobacco/vape use prevention awareness and promote local cessation services and the Maryland Tobacco Quitline were conducted making 278,735 impressions.

**Cessation Services**

* Northside Pharmacy facilitates the Nicotine and Non-Nicotine Replacement Therapy Voucher Program, which includes delivery and/or mailing options for clients. The Lotus Center provides tobacco cessation consults and classes. Through their combined efforts as of 12/31/23, 14 residents received cessation support services and one resident without a car received his cessation aid through the available delivery services which he could not otherwise get.

**Tobacco, Diabetes and Chronic Disease Prevention and Management Initiatives**

The purpose of the grant funding is to promote a community dialogue on tobacco use-related disparities, support a tobacco-free environment, offer tobacco use prevention education, and increase awareness of the risks of tobacco/vape use. Funded partners have projects/activities underway to address health disparities among populations at high risk for tobacco use which include, but are not limited to, youth, youth with disabilities, African Americans, Hispanic/Latinx, and LGBTQ+ communities. As of 12/31/23, the following organizations have partnered with the Cecil County Health Department:

* Clinica Medica Primaria de Rising Sun
* National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
* ASPIRA, Hispanic Leadership Club in Elkton HighSchool
* Youth Empowerment Source/Cecil County Public Schools Prevention Clubs
* League of United Latin American Citizens of Cecil County (LULACCC)

The next Cecil County Tobacco Task Force Meeting will be on 2/22/23 at 1:00 pm on Google Meets which can be accessed through this link, meet.google.com/esj-pinx-jwa. An announcement will be sent closer to the time of the meeting.